HOIKUSHA

PRINTED IN JAPAN

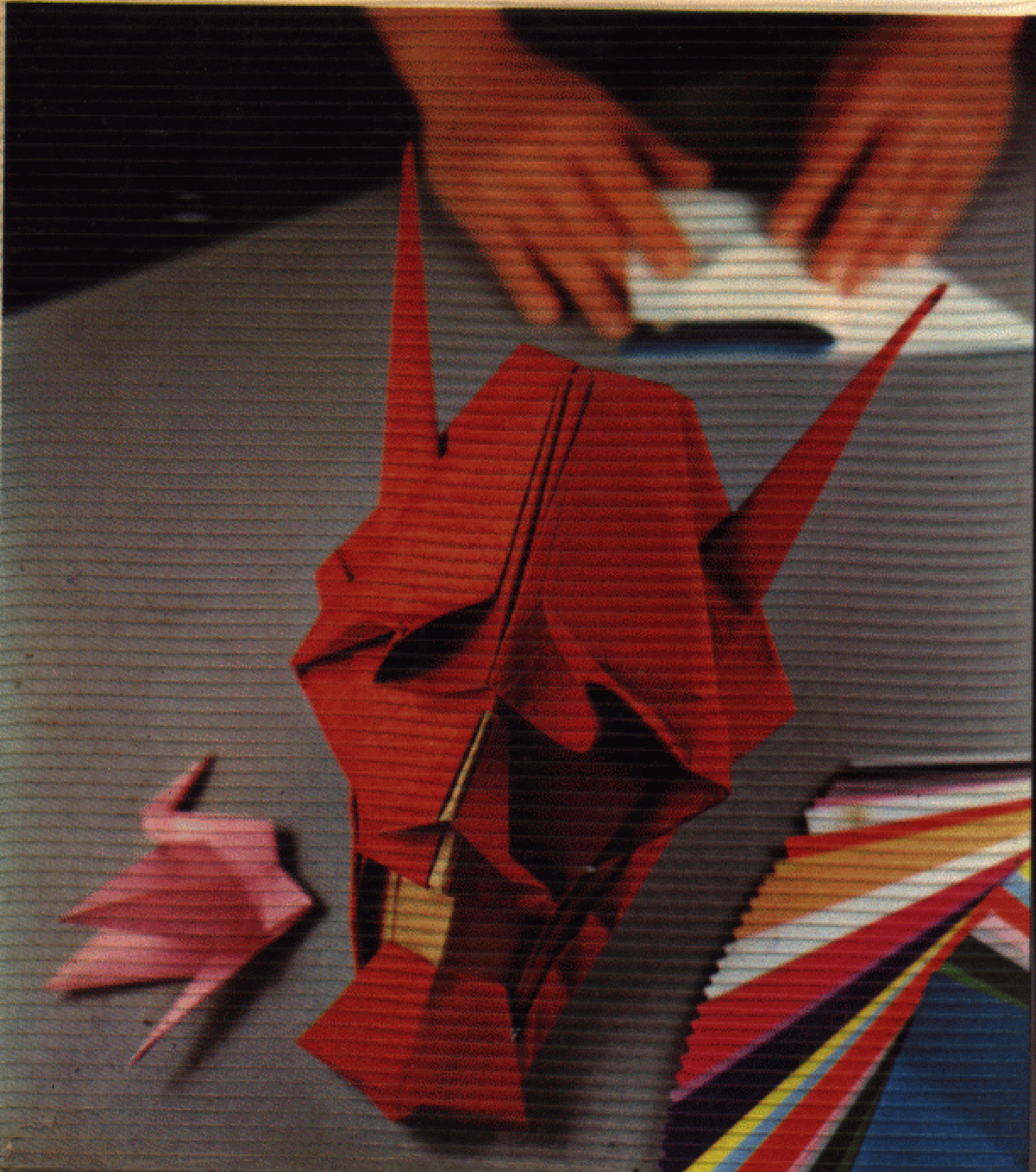
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ORIGAMI

COLOR BOOKS ®

ORIGAMI

by Toyoaki Kawai



INTRODUCTION

Origami, paper-folding, can be enjoyed by children and adults alike. The forms I introduce in this book derive from basic patterns transmitted in Japan for perhaps a thousand years.

As a traditional art, origami has permeated deeply into everyday life in Japan and helped form the versatility and creativity so many Japanese possess. I hope and expect that origami will occupy a niche in the lives of future generations of non-Japanese as well as Japanese.

Is there a child who will not sit entranced as his mother's hands move swiftly, strangely, to create an elephant, a rose, a spaceship, or other favorite animal or object? Kindergarten teachers recognize that children feel a strange attraction toward origami and make origami zoos and botany gardens filled with paper animals and flowers. The paper creations not only help initiate a happy dialogue between children and teachers but also decorate the kindergarten rooms.

To practice origami requires only paper and a little time. Whether devotee or novice, therefore, one may enjoy the origami art in every conceivable situation. While travelling, origami is ideal for passing time alone or sharing pleasant moments with companions. Some people fold origami while commuting.

People are especially delighted when presented an origami work created before their eyes. The traveller who takes origami techniques home from Japan carries one of the finest possible souvenirs, and an art that is close to all Japanese hearts.

Contents

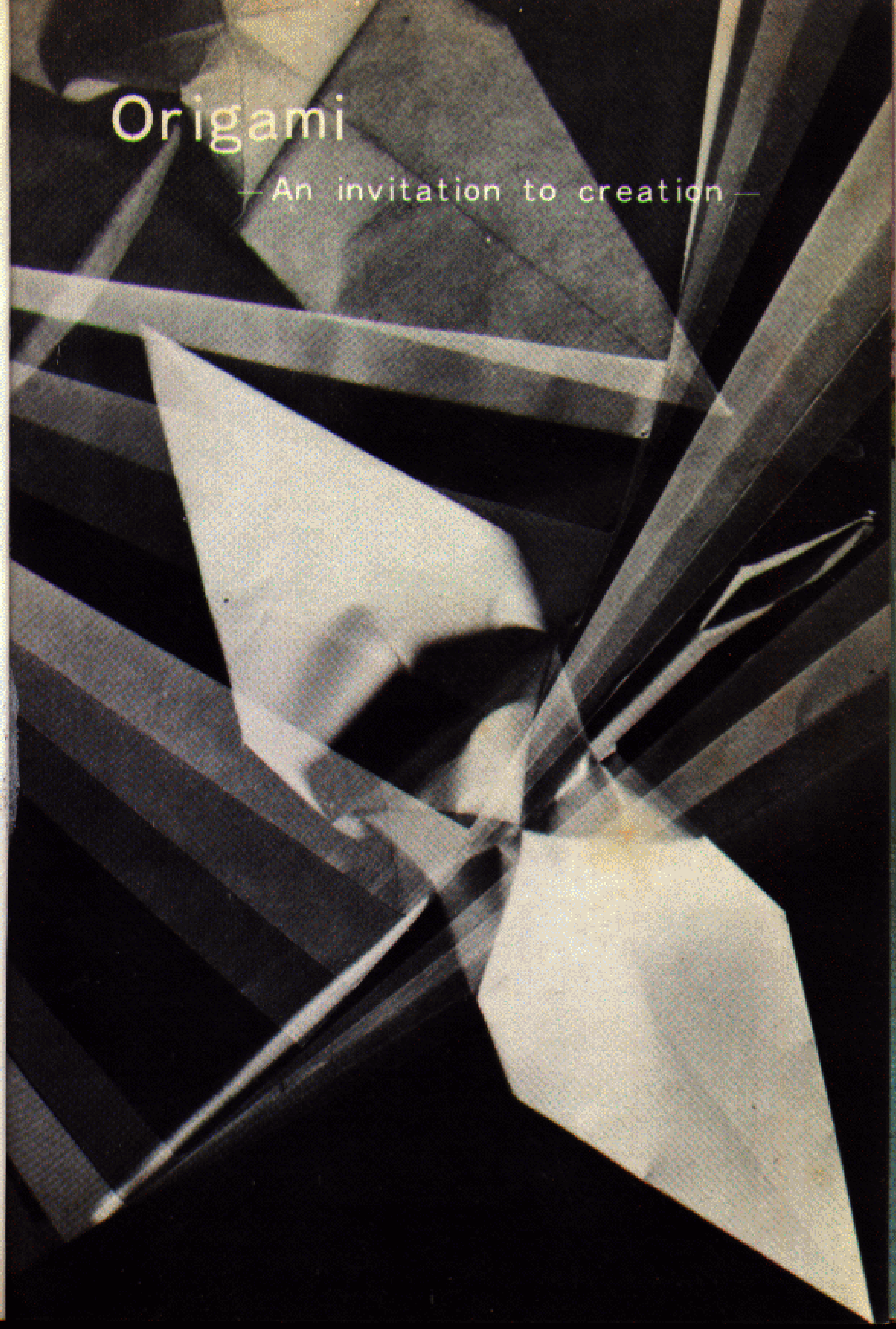
Basic folds

(Bold numbers indicate color plates; other numbers indicate pages showing paper-folding sequences.)

ORIGAMI

translated by Thomas I. Elliott

 No. 21 of Hoikusha's Color Books Series. Published by Hoikusha Publishing Co., Ltd. 20, 1-chome, Uchikyuhoji-machi, Higashi-ku, Osaká, 540 Japan. Book Code Number 0176-540021-7700. First Edition in 1970. Thirteenth Edition in 1976. Printed in JAPAN

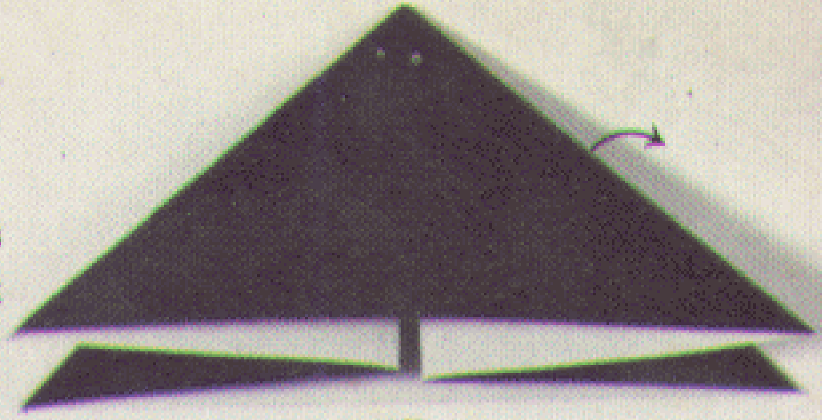


Origami zoo

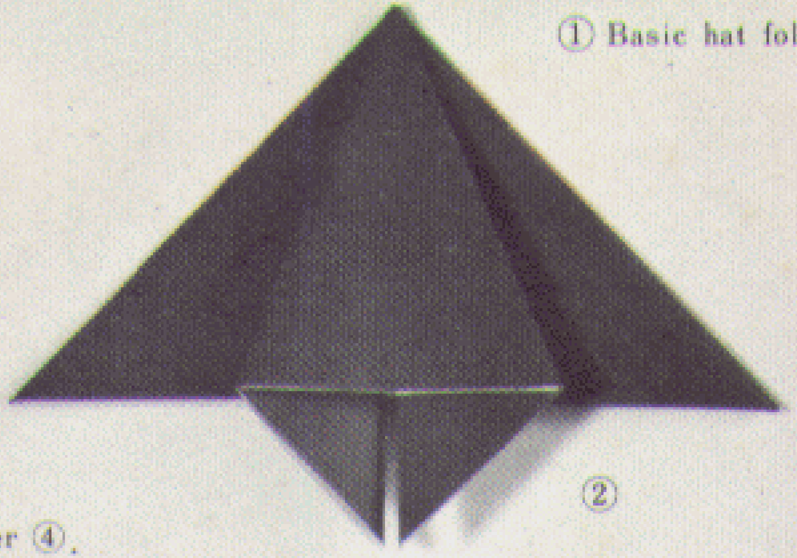


Gorilla

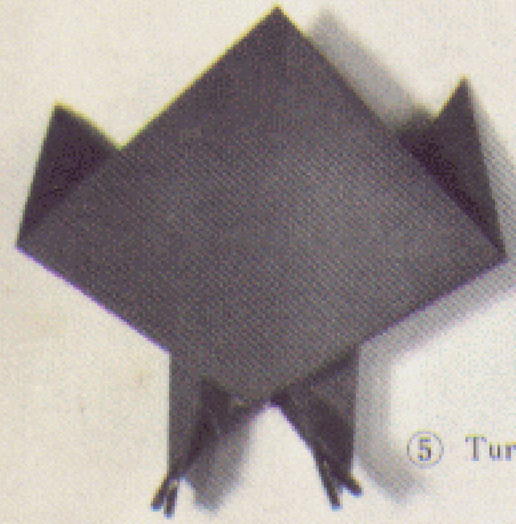
The basic hat fold is used for gorilla, rocket and sombrero.



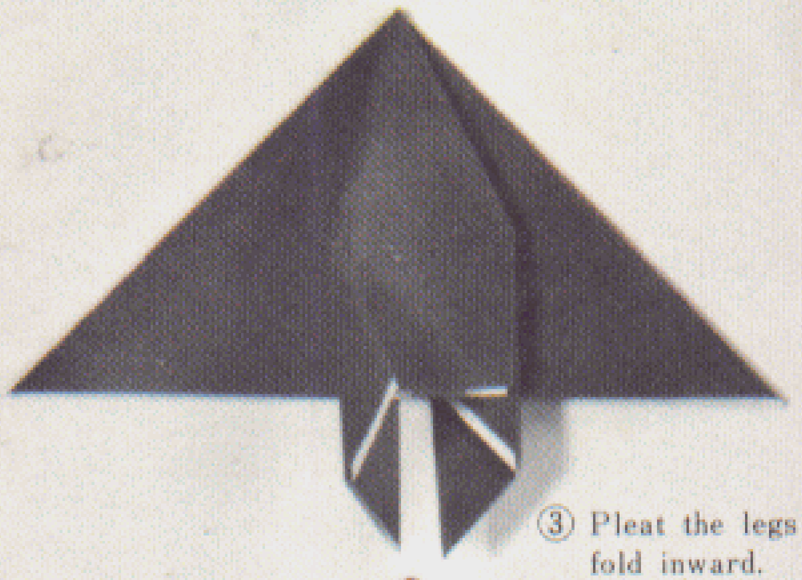
① Basic hat fold.



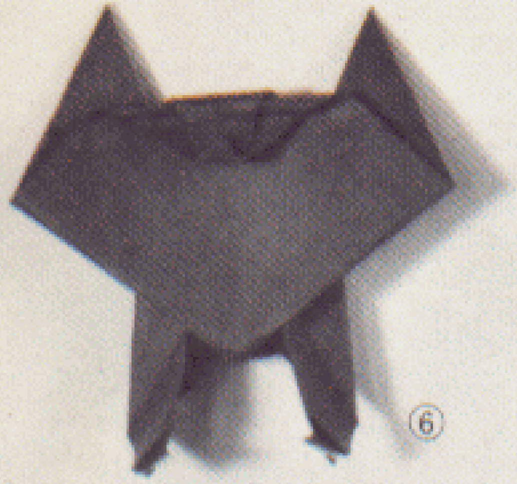
②



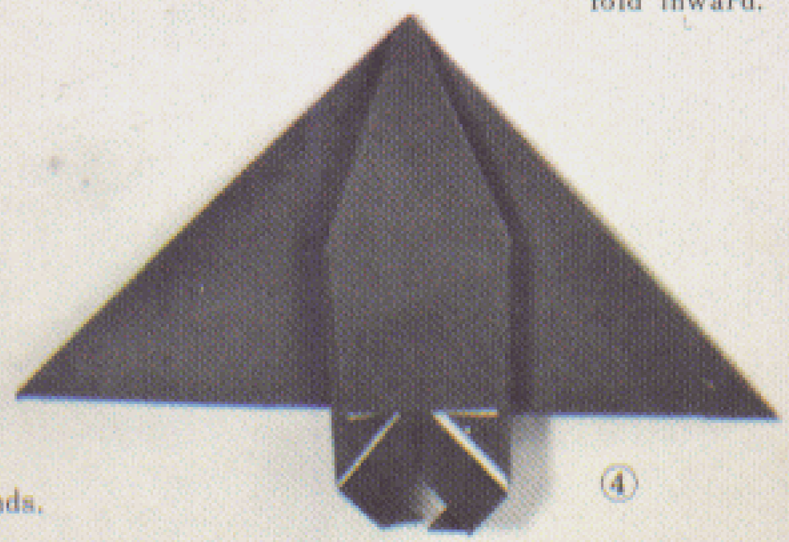
⑤ Turn over ④.



③ Pleat the legs and fold inward.



⑥



④



⑦ Fold to make arms and hands.

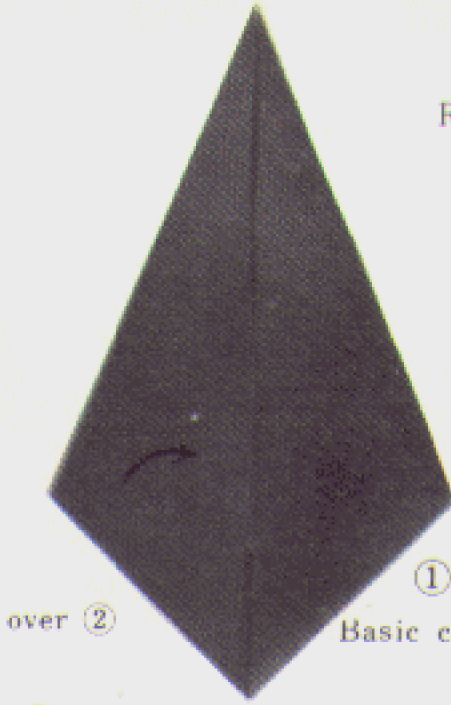
Camel

(two sheets of paper necessary)

Front half



③ Turn over ②



① Basic camel fold.

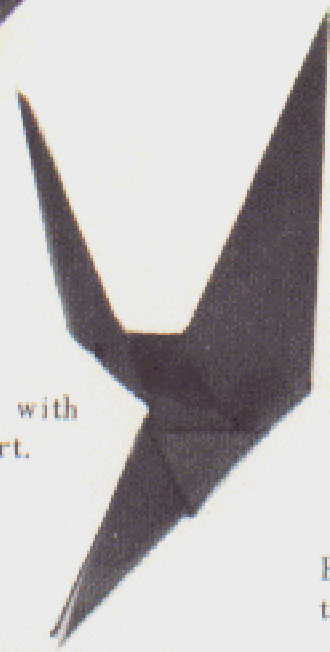
Rear half



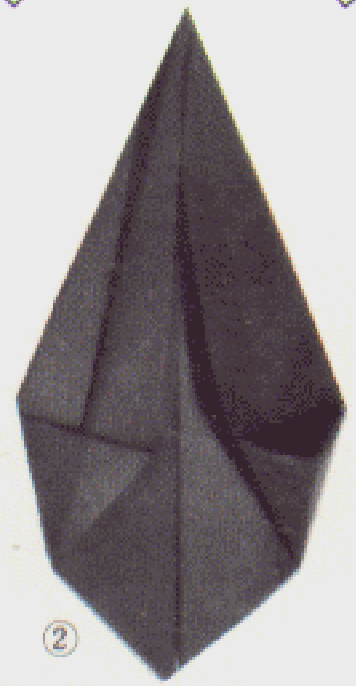
③



④ Fold ③ in half.



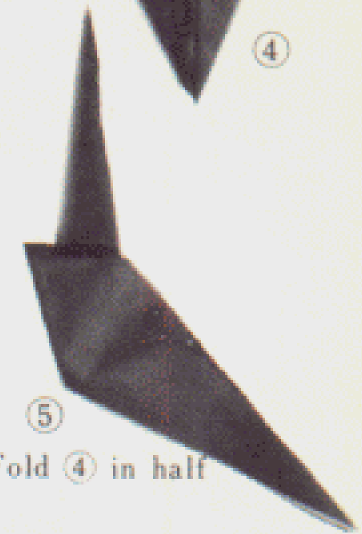
⑤ Make neck with narrow part.



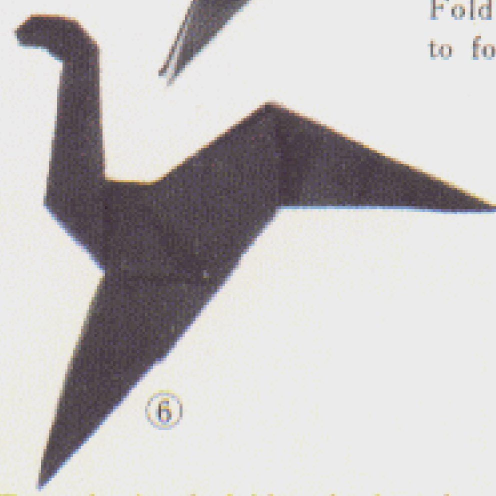
② Fold both sides to center, then open to form triangles as shown.



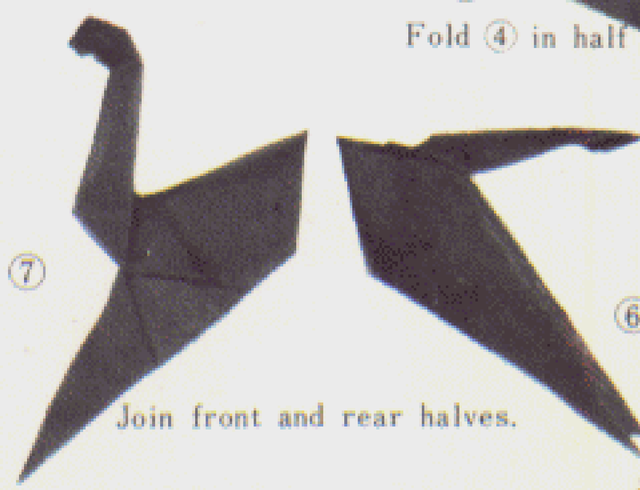
④



⑤ Fold ④ in half



⑥ To make head, fold end of neck and then fold back top.

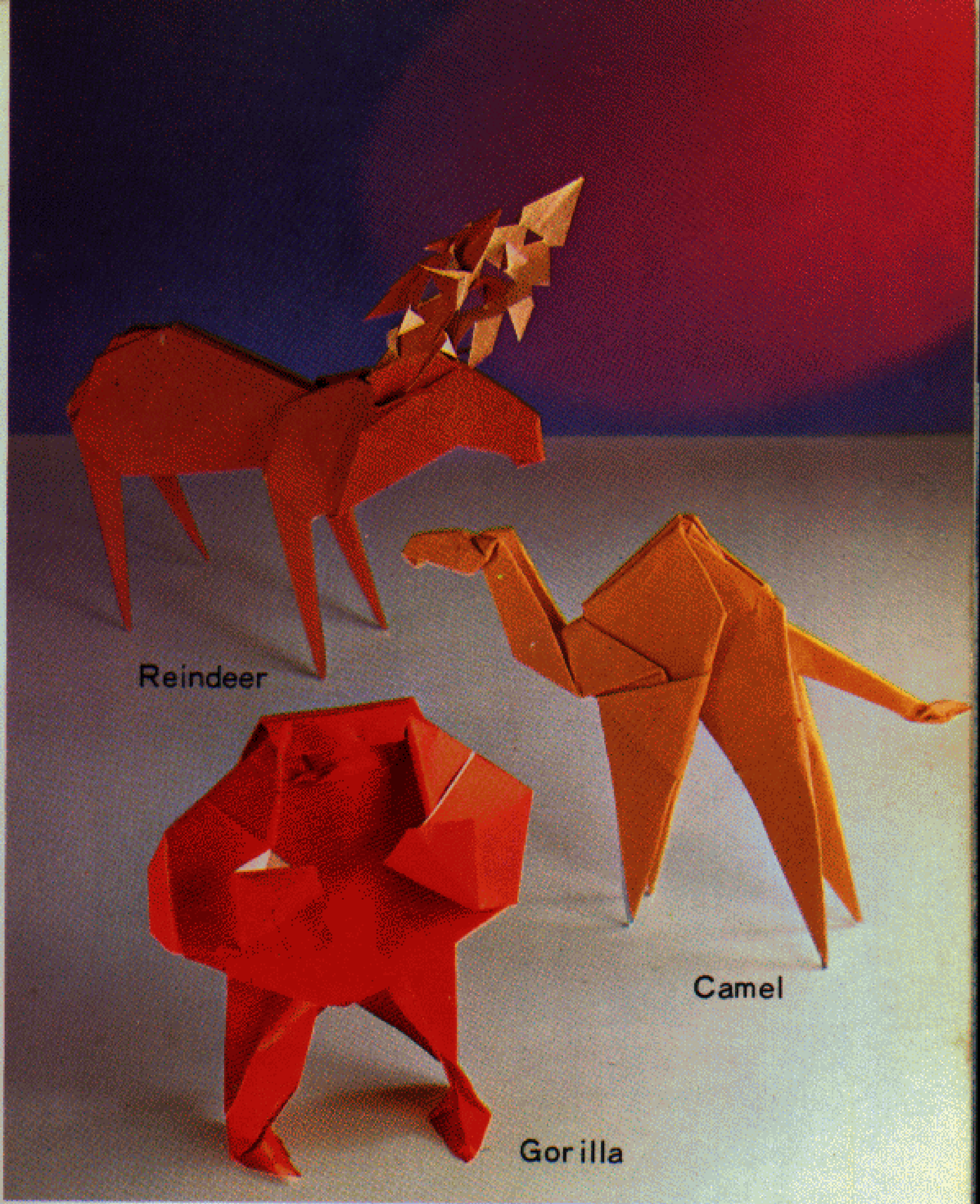


⑦ Join front and rear halves.

⑥

The baby kangaroo requires paper one-quarter the size of that needed for the grown kangroo. Duo-colored paper was used for the jumping pony ; (folding sequence on p. 101) rough textured paper was used for the kangaroo.

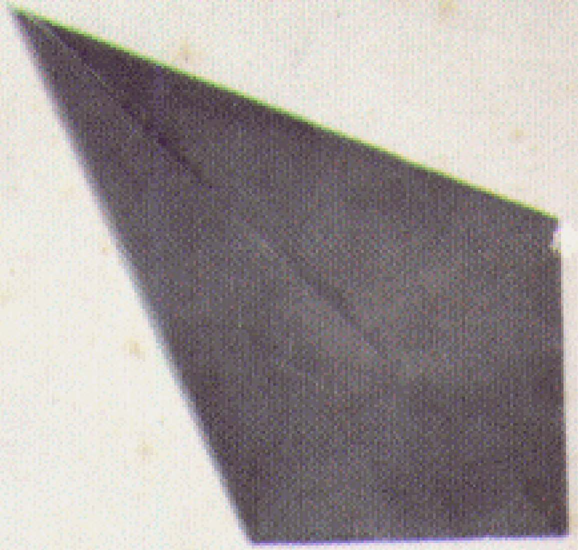




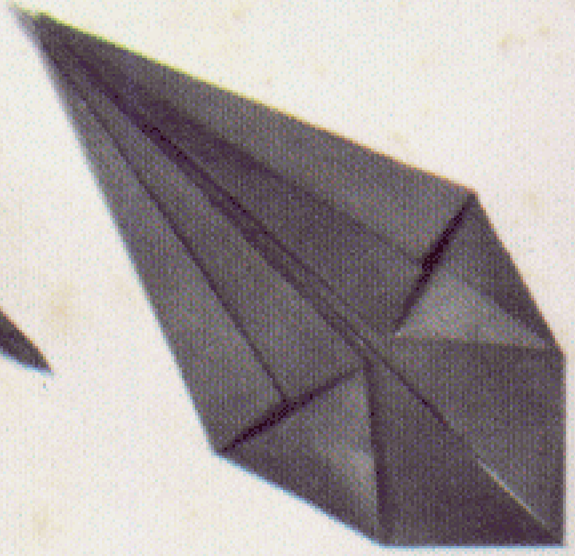
Try to make a double-humped camel. If you use slightly stiffer paper for the reindeer its antlers will not droop. Use your ingenuity to make a running reindeer.

Kangaroo

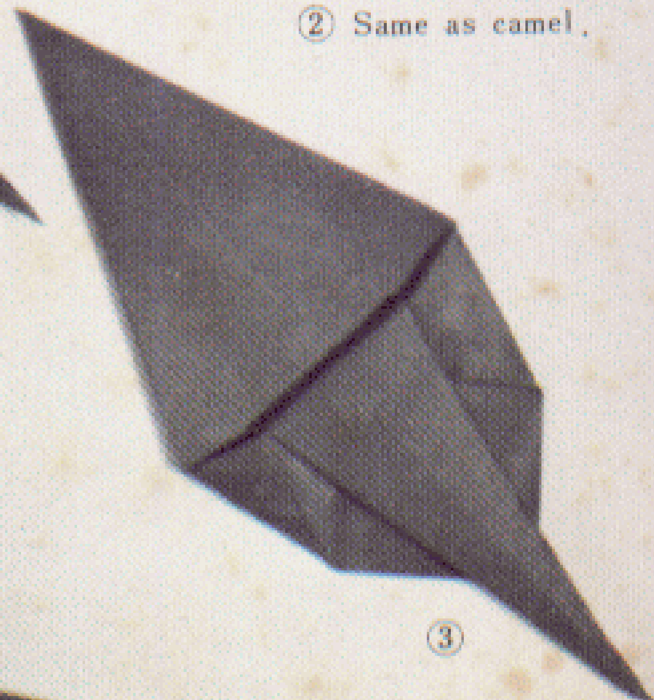
Same process for adult or baby kangaroo. Latter uses 1/4 size paper. Scissors used to form ears and front legs.



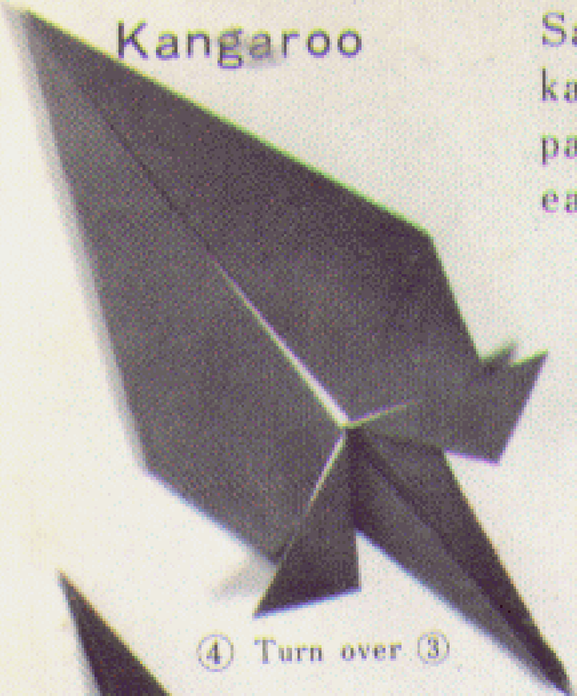
① Same as camel.



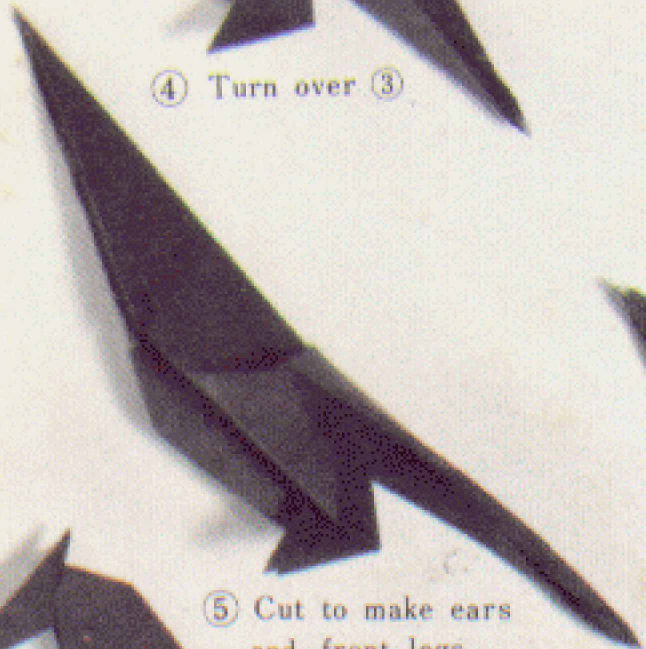
② Same as camel.



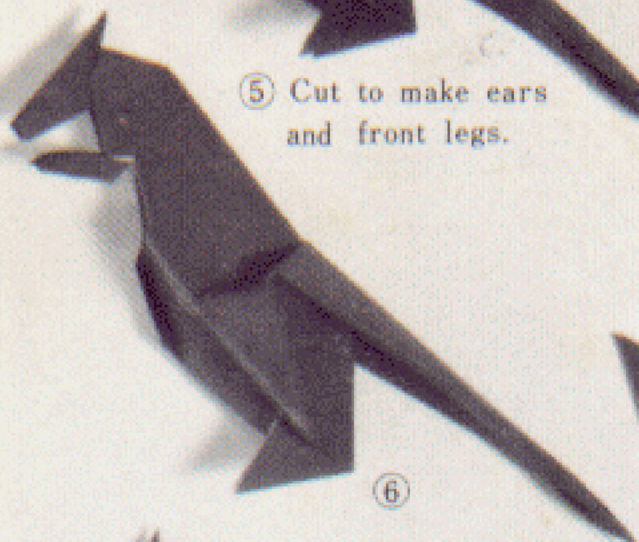
③



④ Turn over ③



⑤ Cut to make ears and front legs.



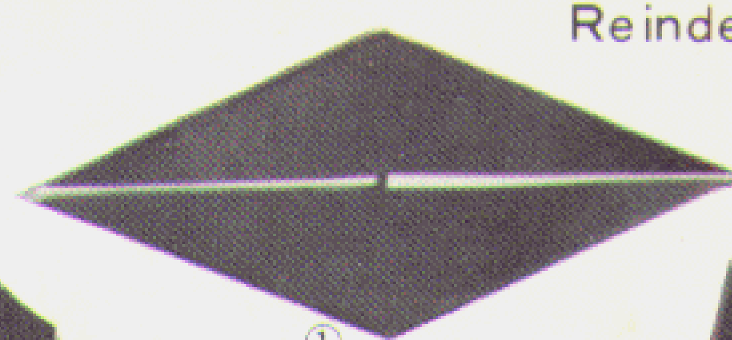
⑥



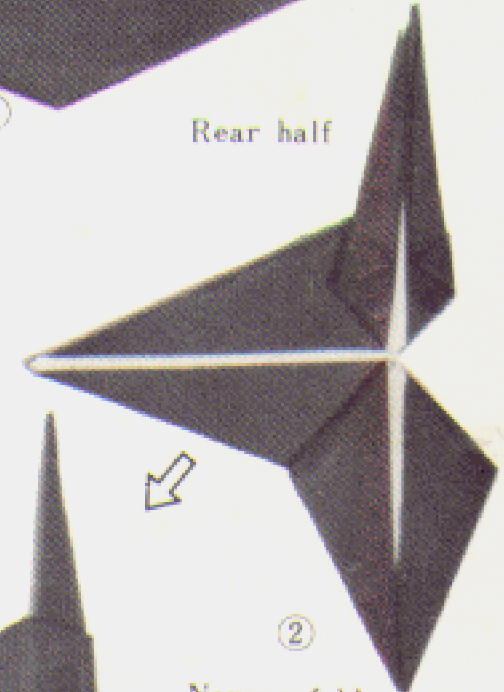
⑦ Bend tail and rear legs to stand kangaroo erect.

Reindeer

Begin with the basic crane fold. As with the camel, two sheets of paper are necessary.

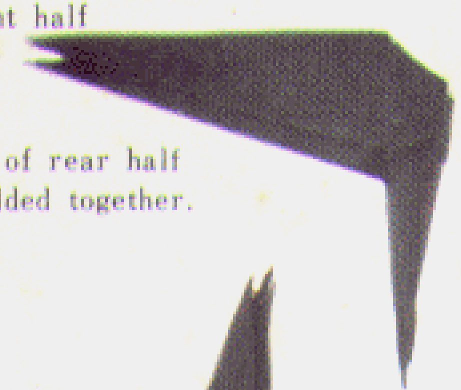


①



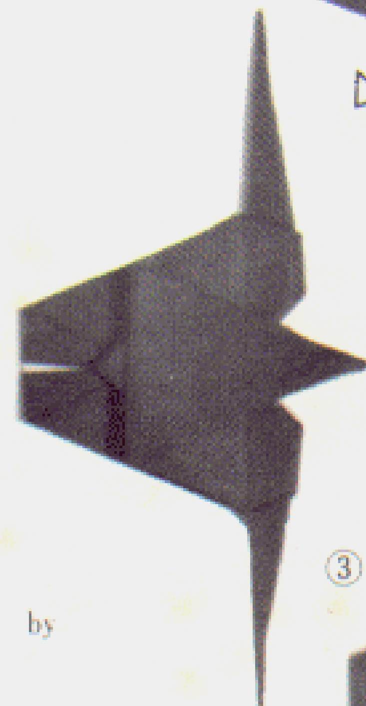
Rear half

② Narrow folds form legs.

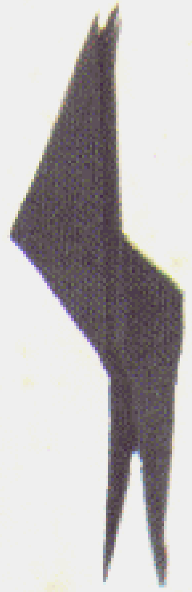


Front half

③ ② of rear half folded together.



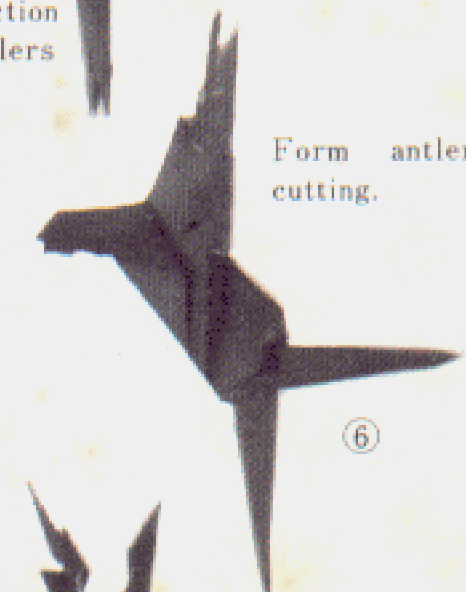
③



④

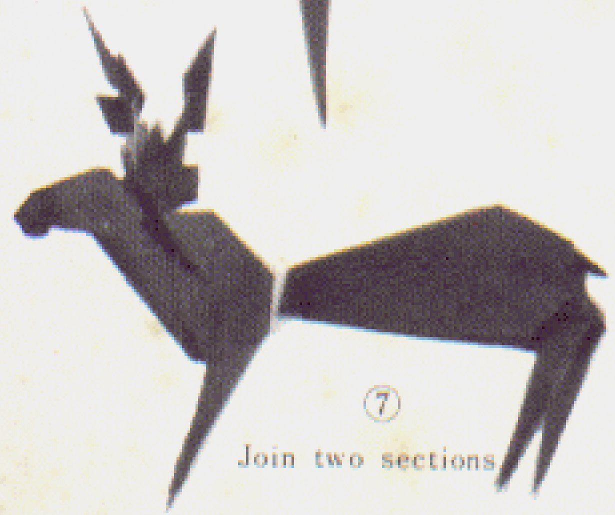


⑤ Make head with one pointed section of ④; make antlers with other.

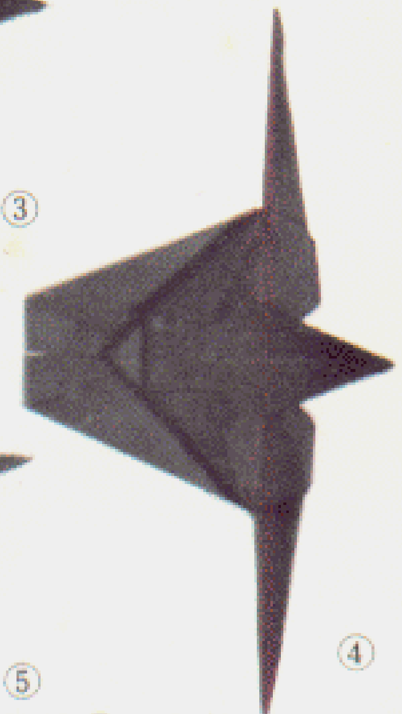


Form antlers by cutting.

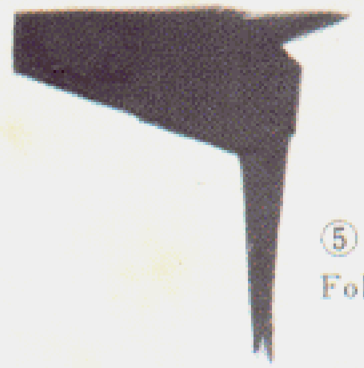
⑥



⑦ Join two sections



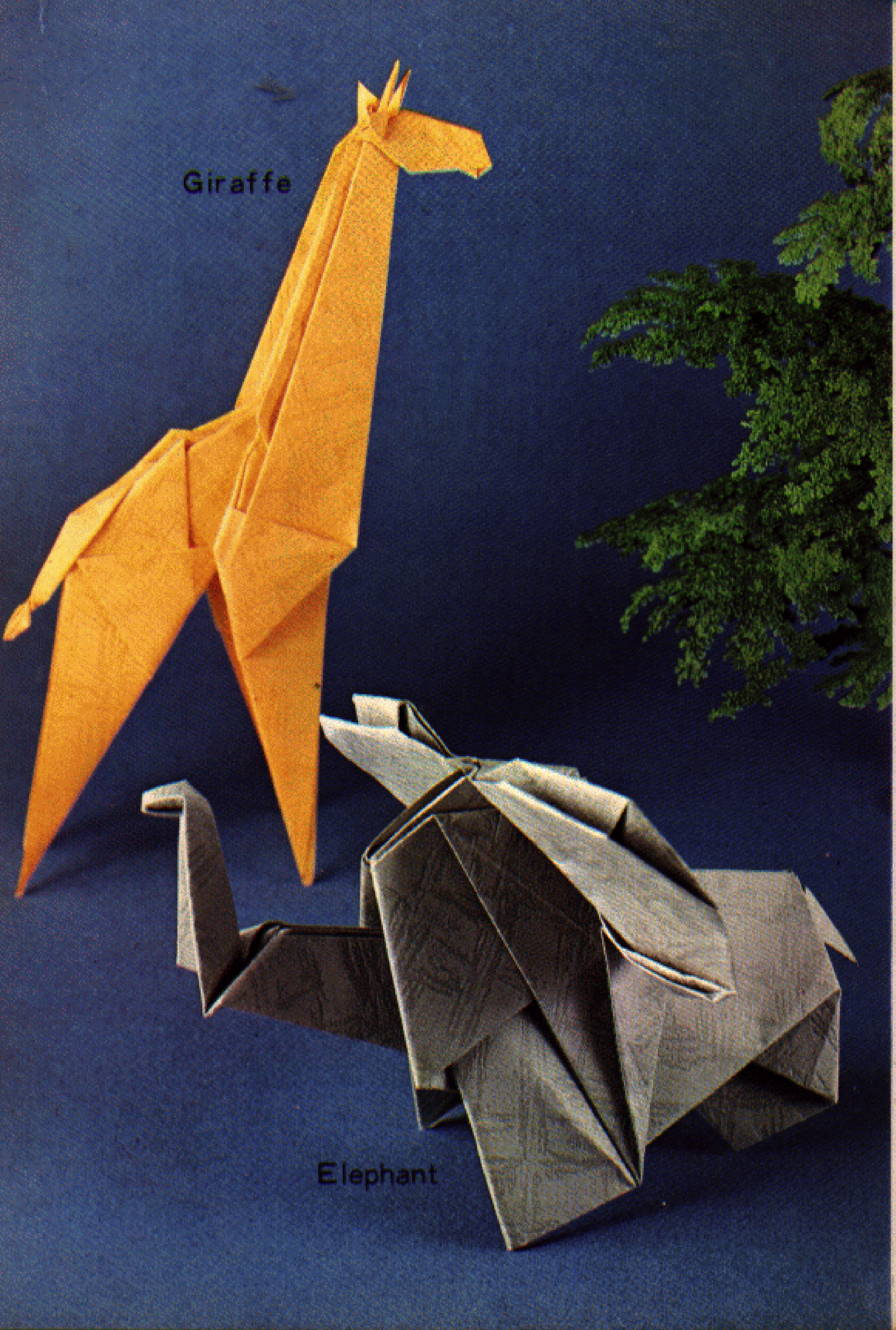
④

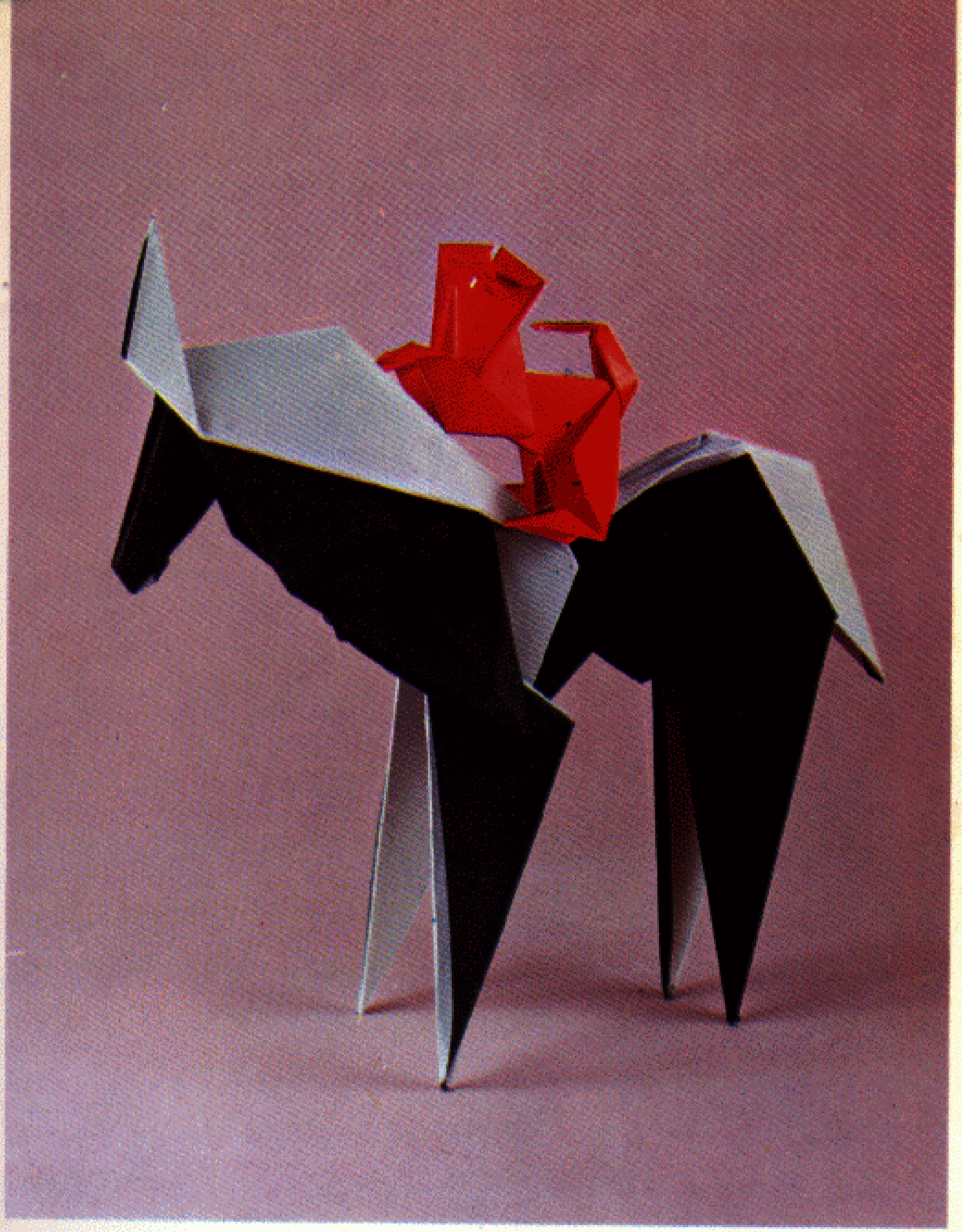


⑤ Fold ④ in half.



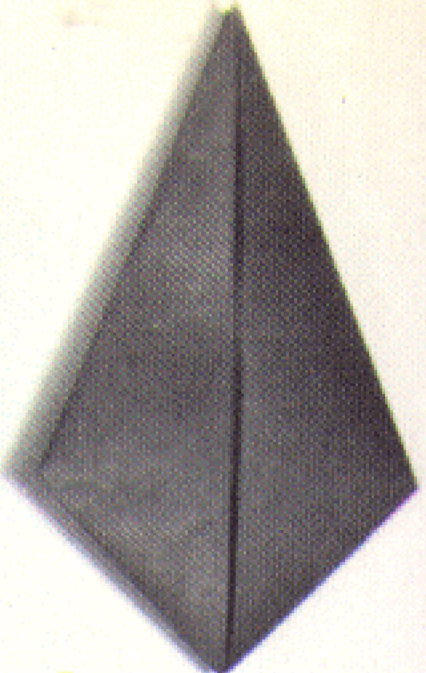
⑥ Form rear leg stance. Bend tail down.



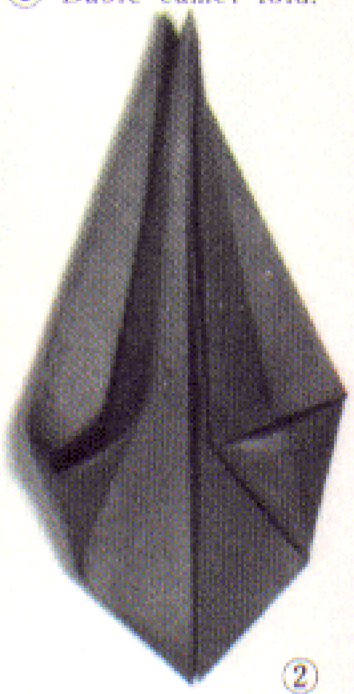


Horse Pay close attention to leg angles when joining front and rear. Experiment with various leg stances.
(folding sequence on p.98)

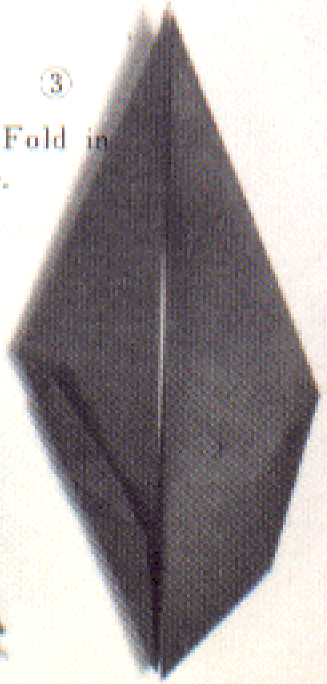
Giraffe



① Basic camel fold.



②



③ Turn over ②. Fold in half lengthwise.



Front half

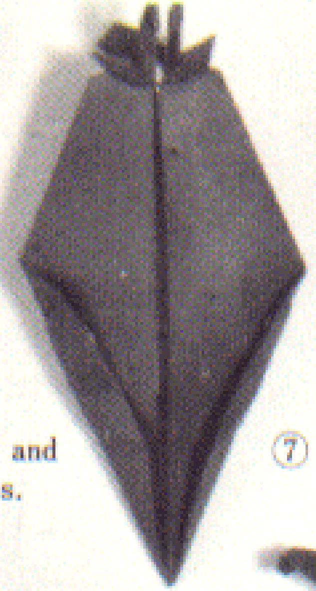
④ Make head with narrow part.



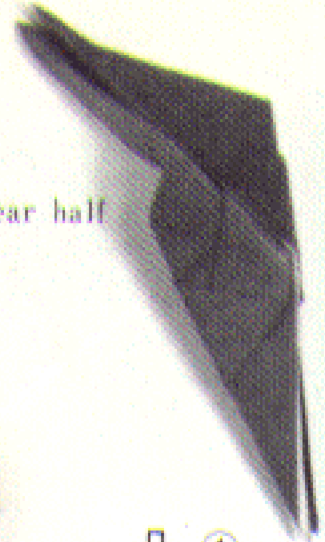
⑤ Cut to make ears.



⑥ Open out ⑤. Cut and fold to make horns.



⑦ Fold in half lengthwise.

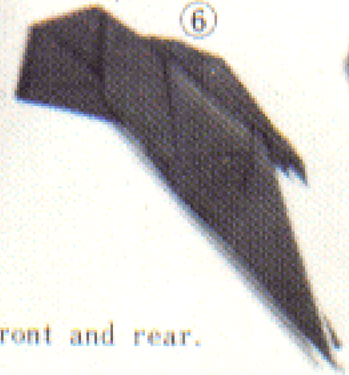


Rear half



④

⑤ Make tail with narrow part.

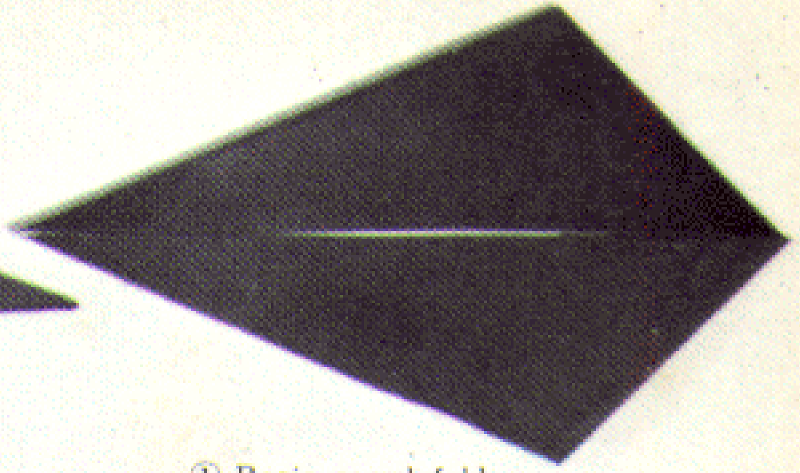


⑥

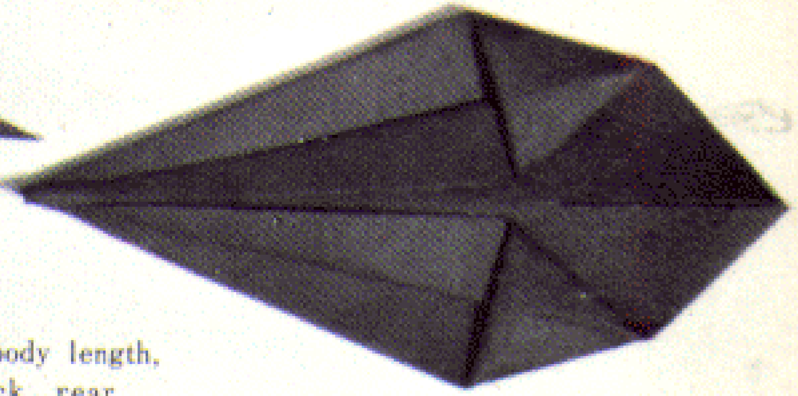


⑧ Join front and rear.

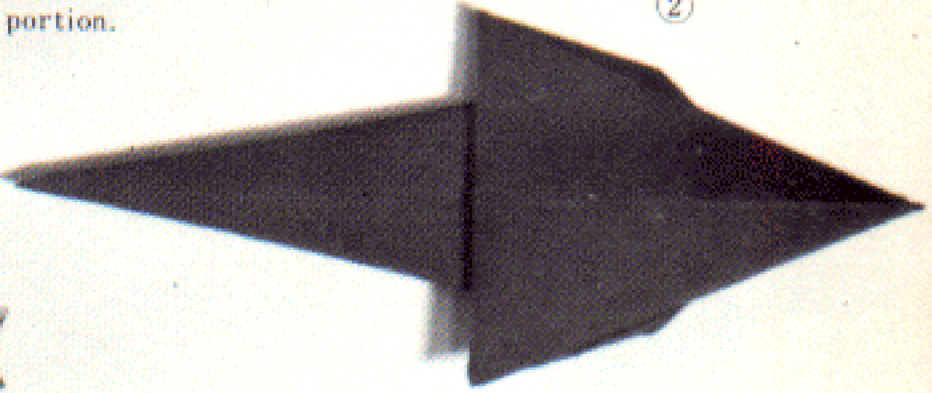
Elephant



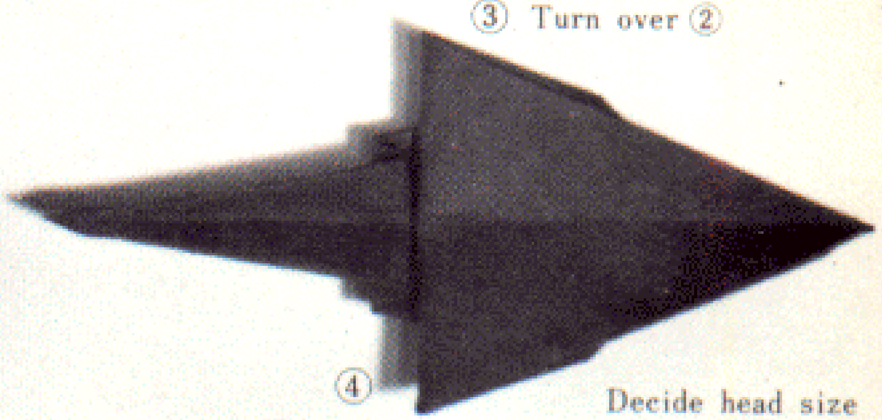
① Basic camel fold.



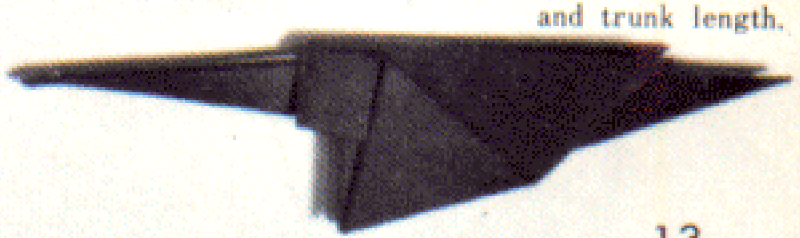
②



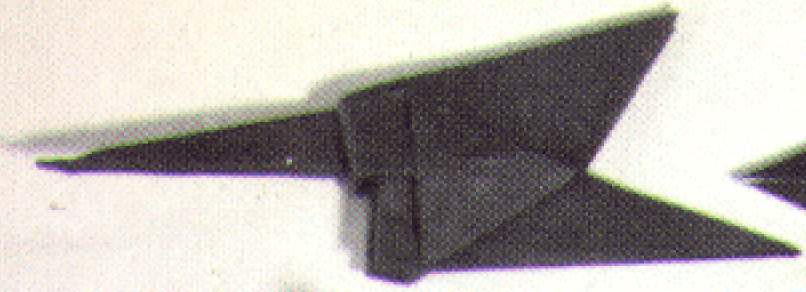
③ Turn over ②



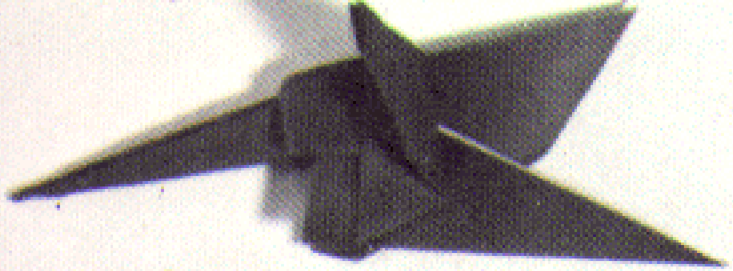
④ Decide head size and trunk length.



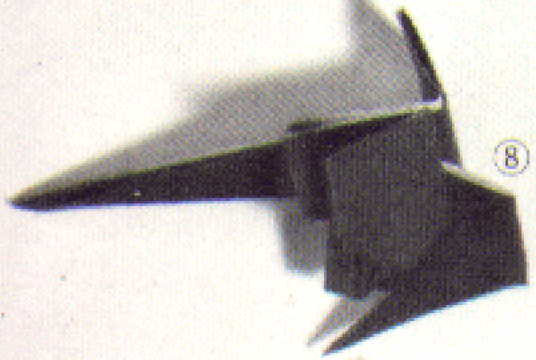
⑤ Fold ④ in half lengthwise.



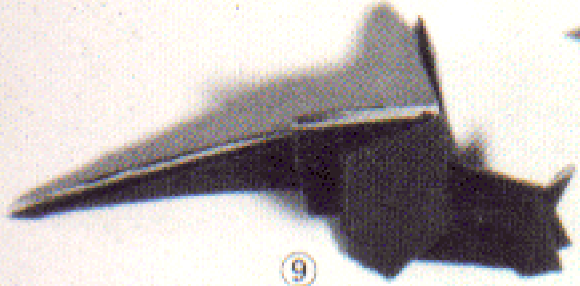
⑥ Pull until front legs line up.



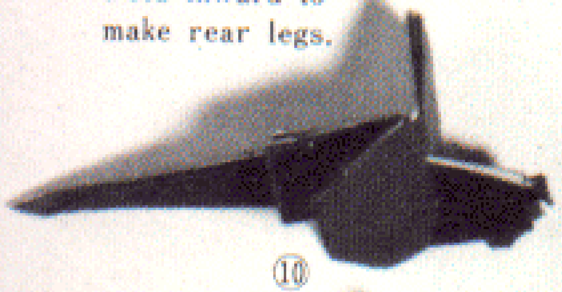
⑦ Fold ears.



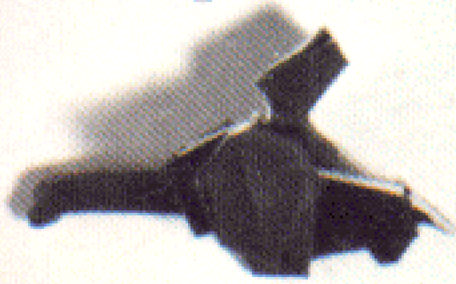
⑧ Decide body length, fold back rear portion.



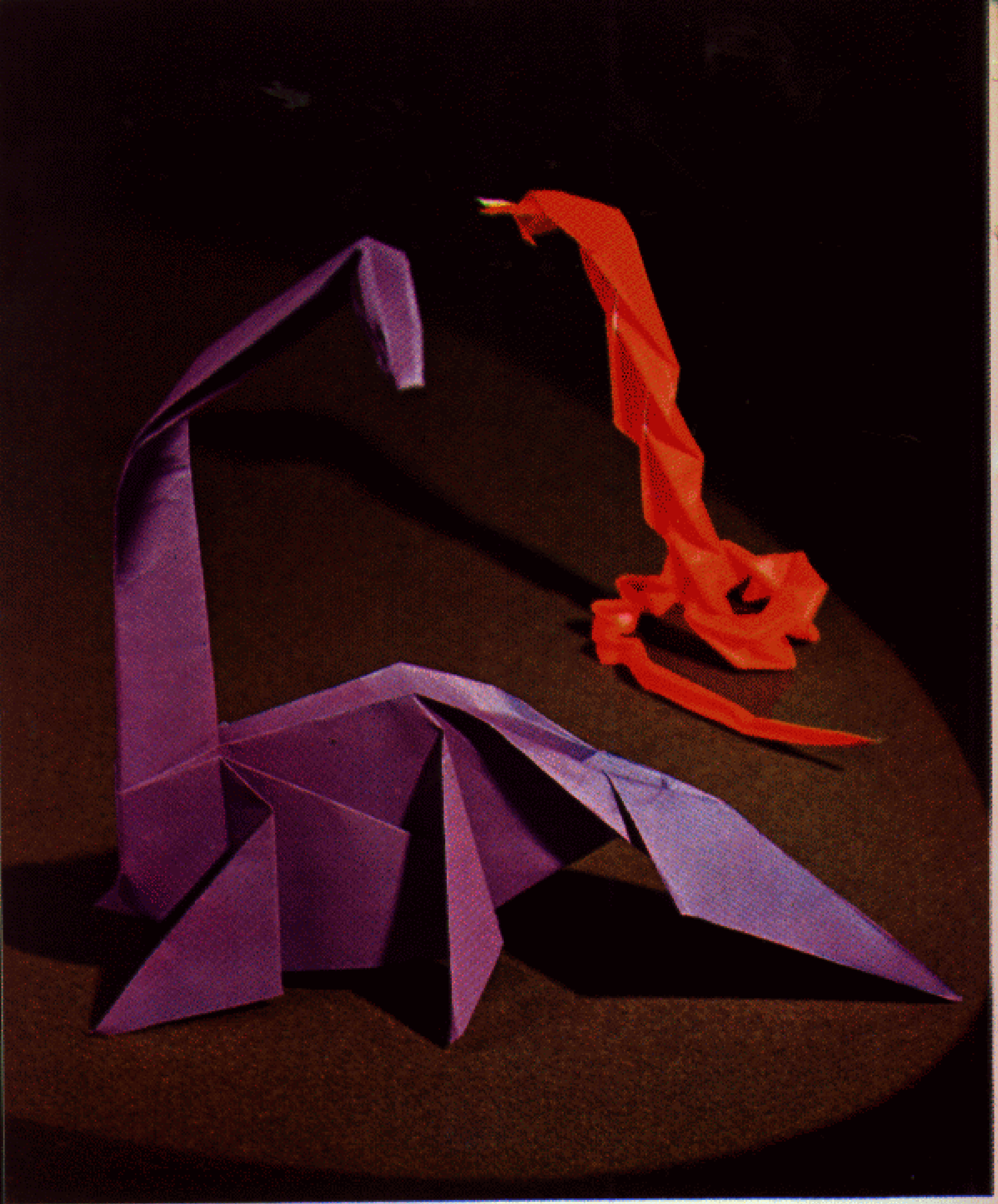
⑨ Fold inward to make rear legs.



⑩

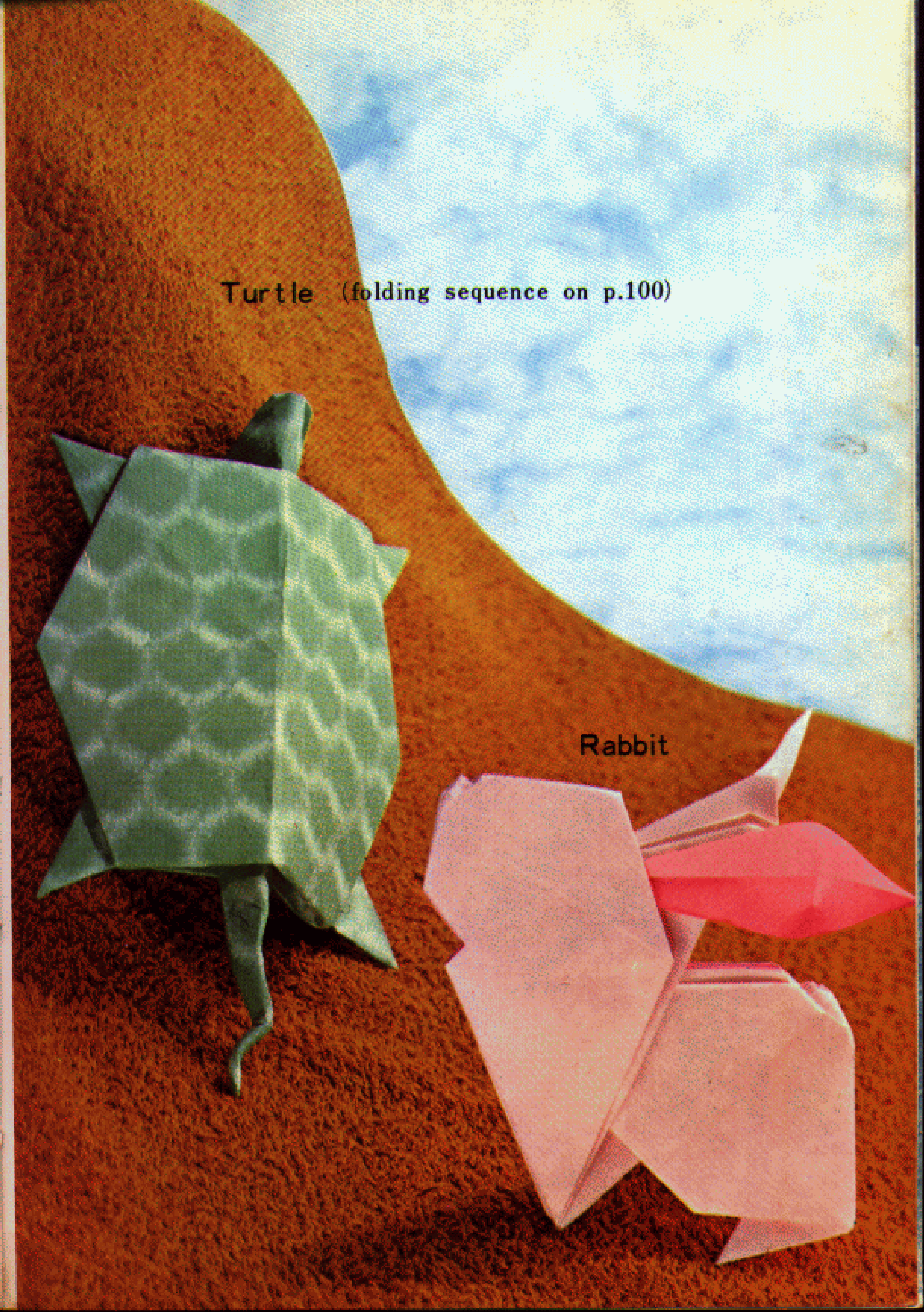


⑪ Adjust trunk and ears for various expressions.



Dinosaur
(folding sequence on p.103)

Snake

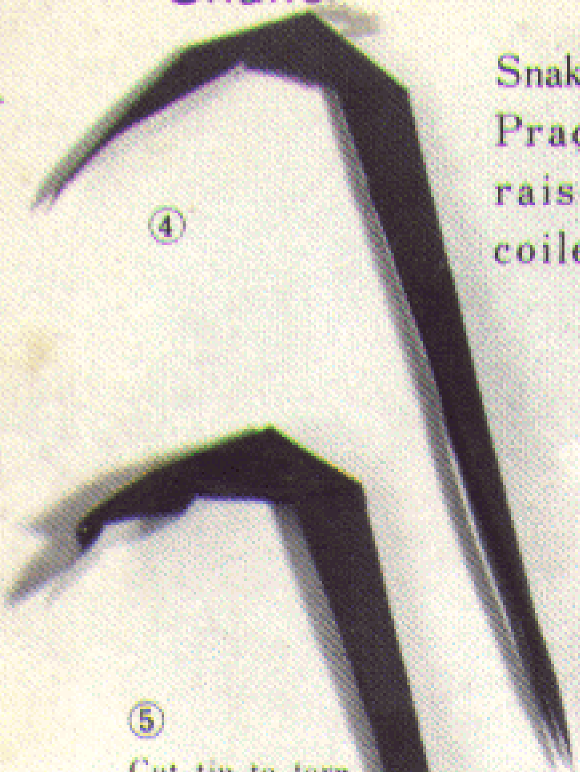


Turtle (folding sequence on p.100)

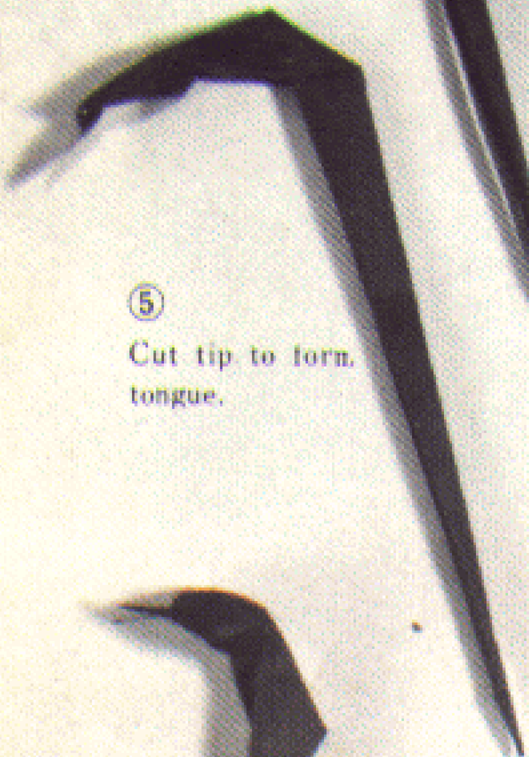
Rabbit

Snake

Snakes are easy to fold. Practice having snake raise its head while coiled.



④



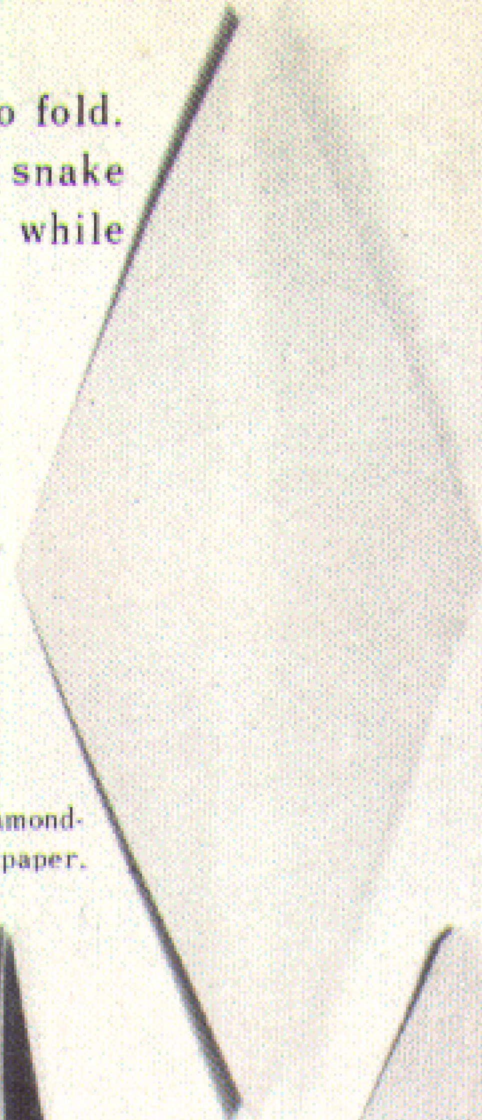
⑤
Cut tip to form tongue.



⑥



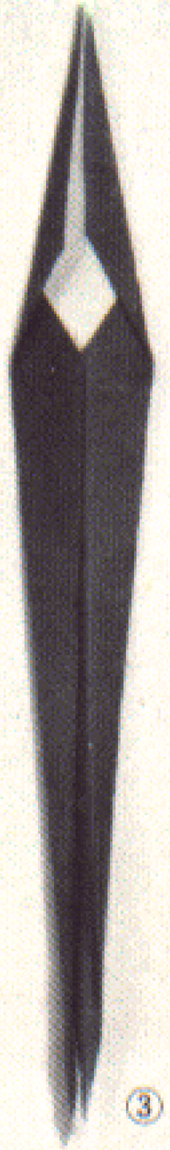
⑦



① Use diamond-shaped paper.

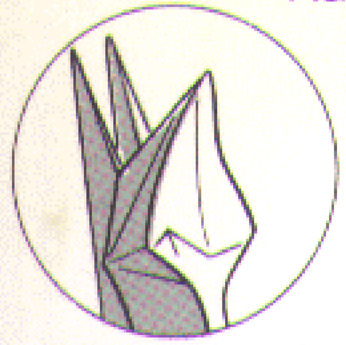


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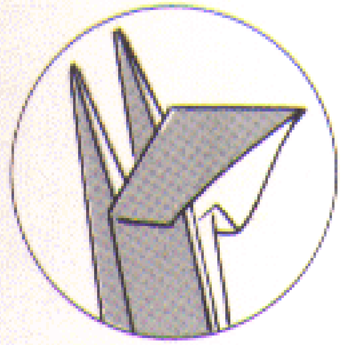


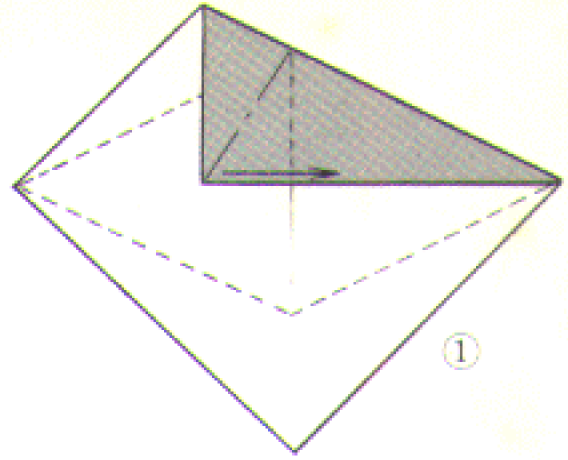
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Rabbit

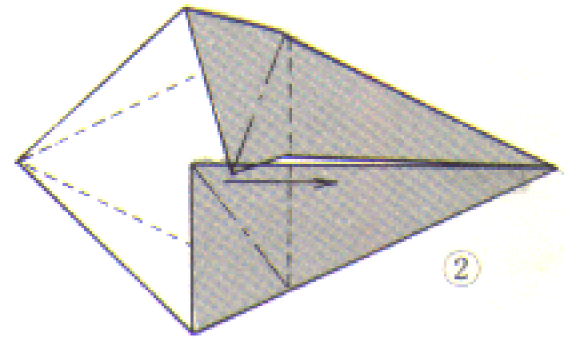


Folding the head.

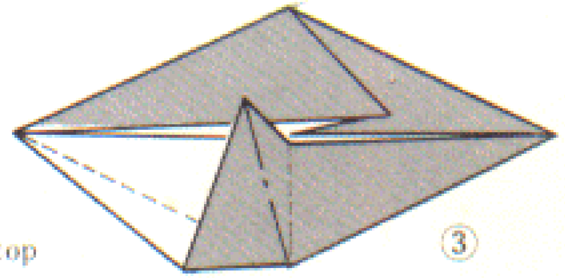




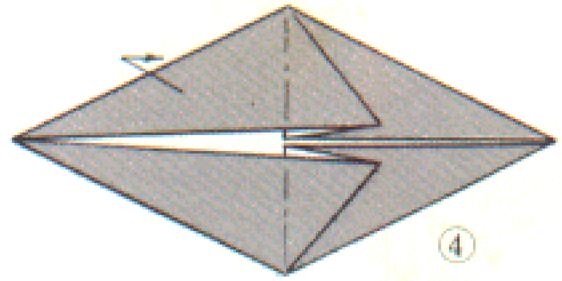
①



②

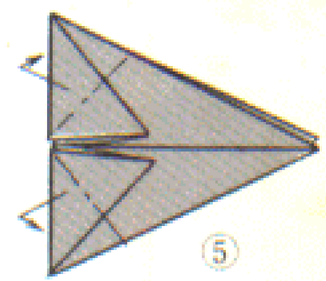


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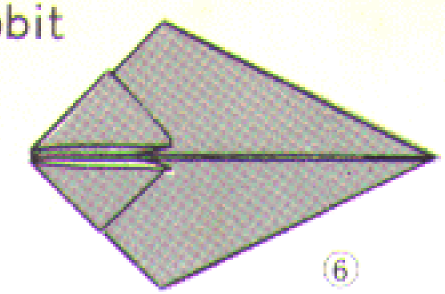


④

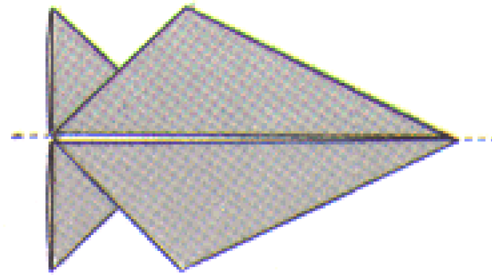
Fold back from dotted line.



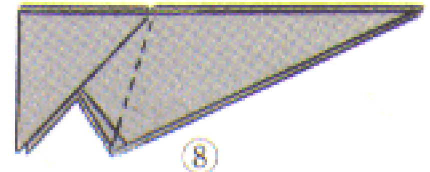
⑤



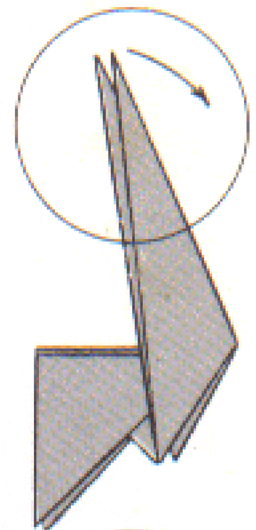
⑥



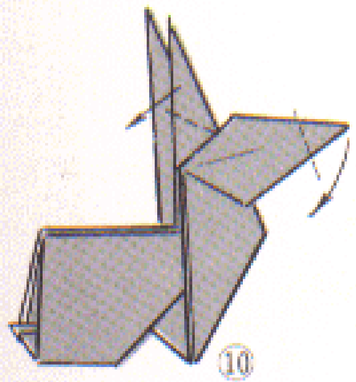
⑦ Fold in half lengthwise.



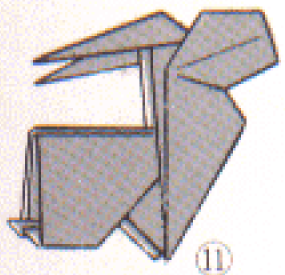
⑧



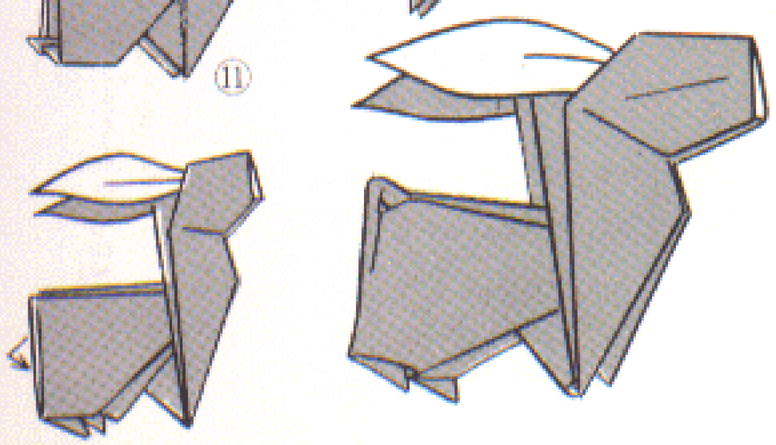
⑨
Use one of top sections to form head; use other to cut and form ears.



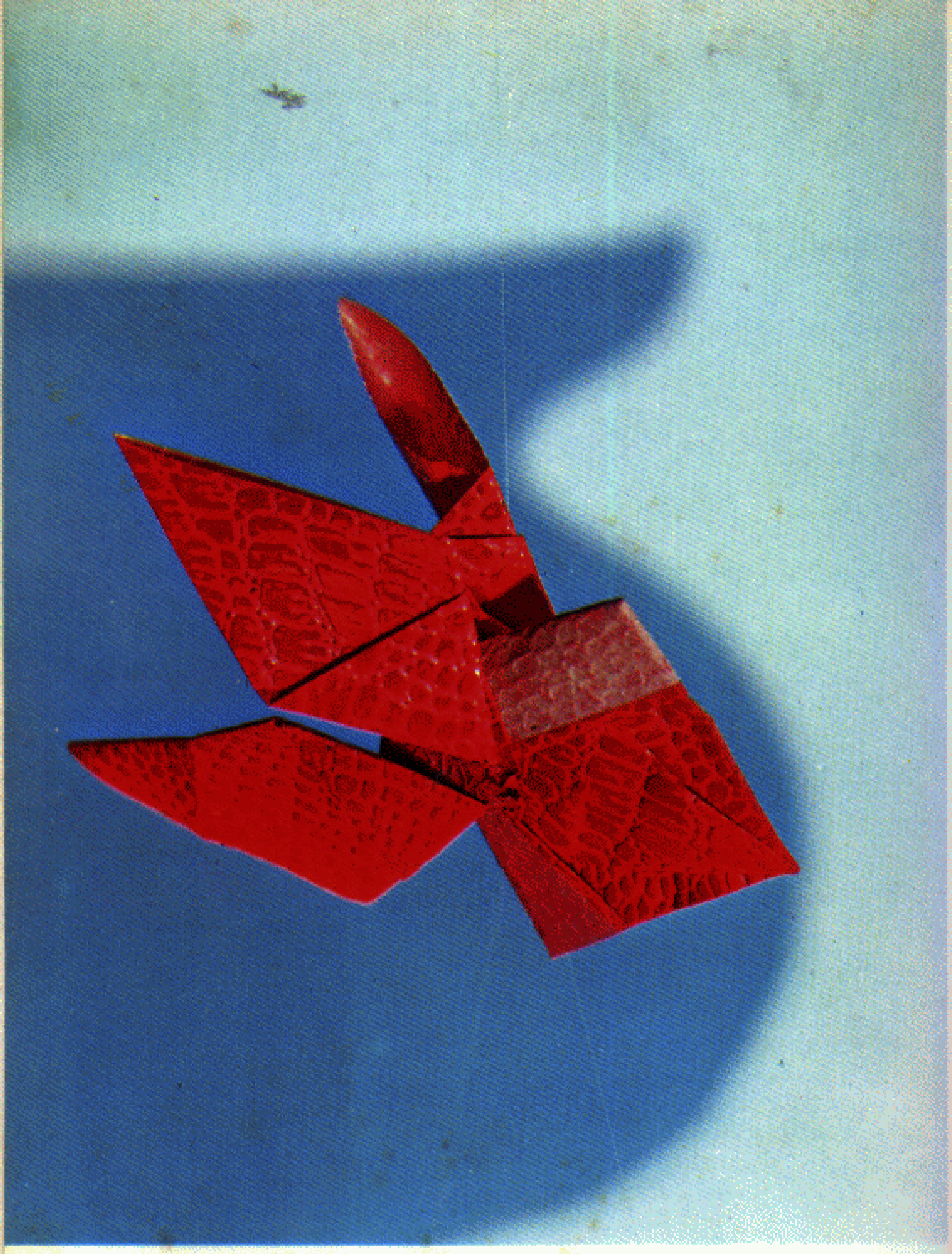
⑩



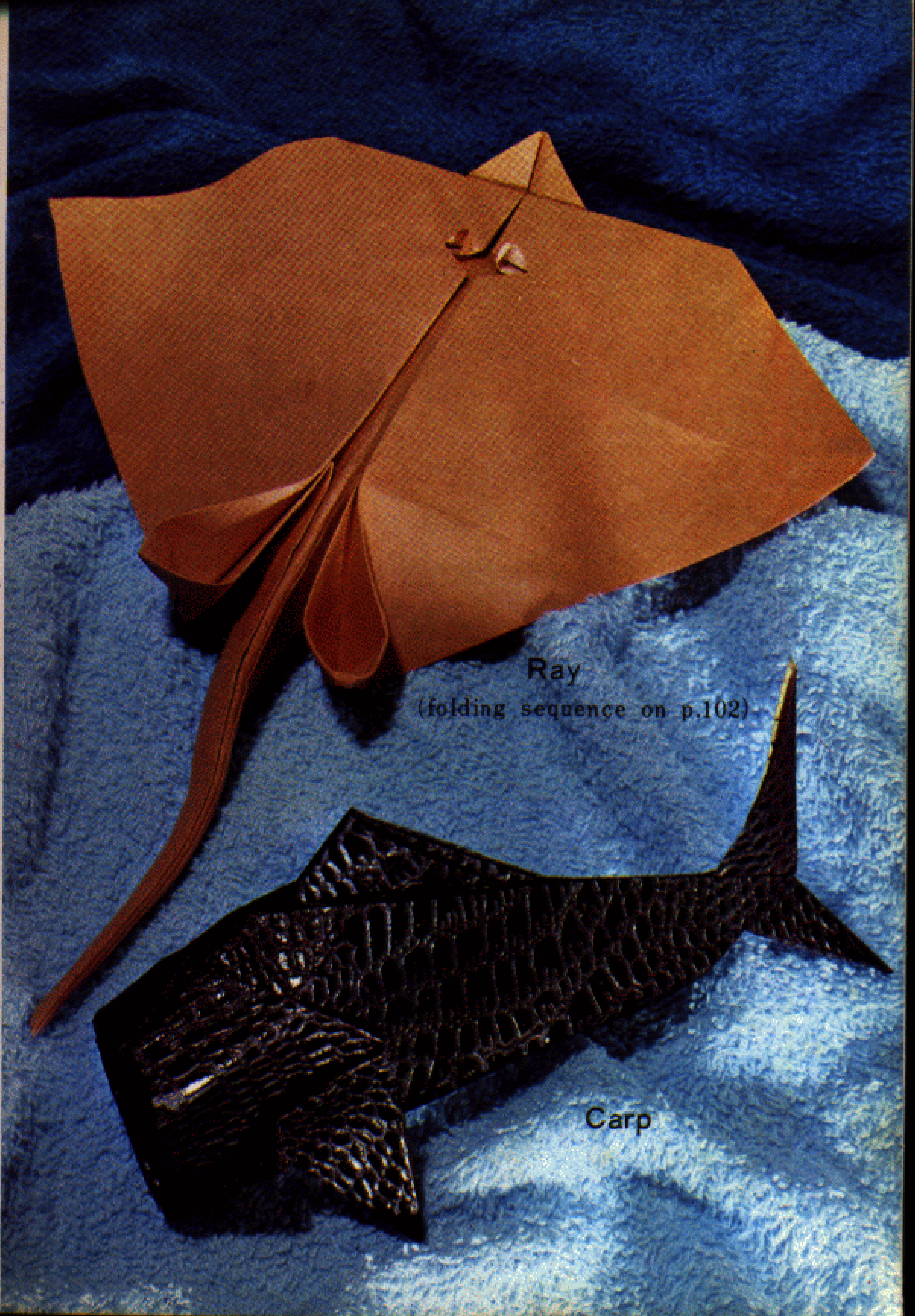
⑪



⑫ Fold tail slightly down, and then up again.



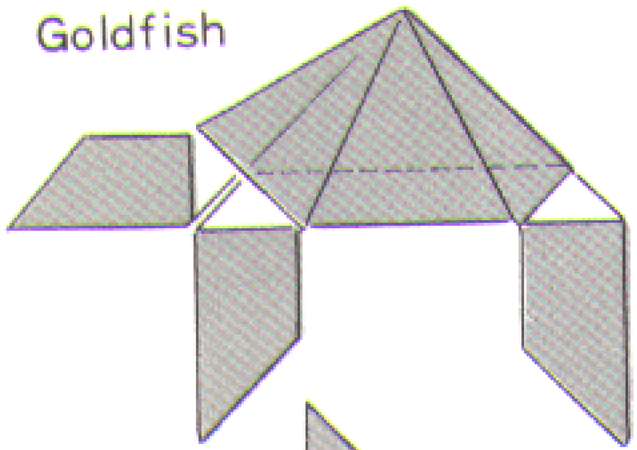
Goldfish



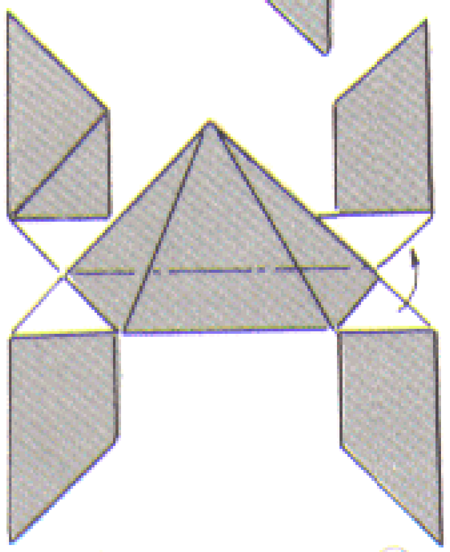
Ray
(folding sequence on p.102)

Carp

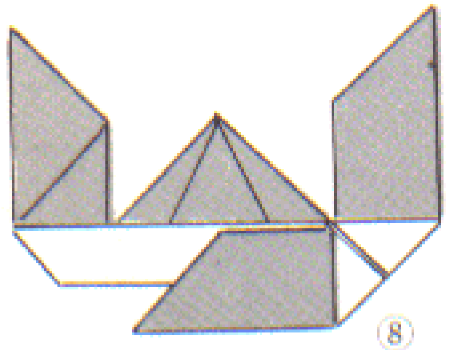
Goldfish



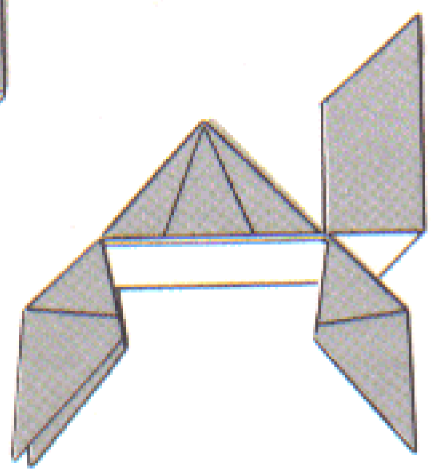
⑥

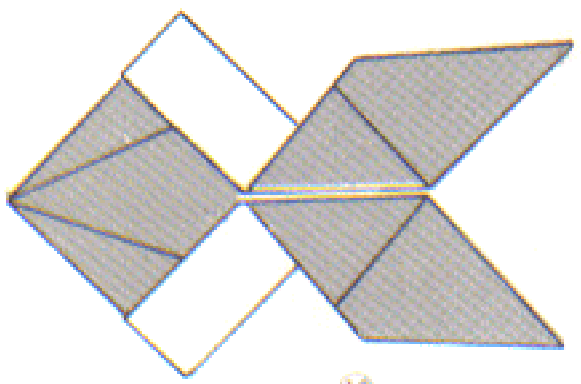


⑦

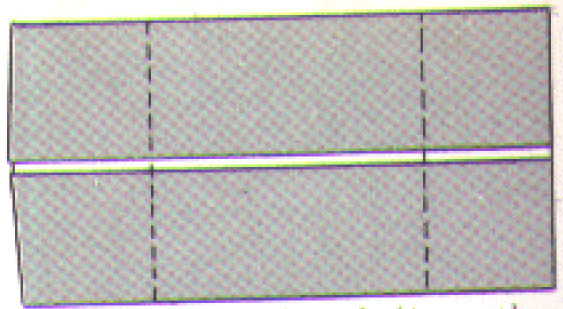


⑧

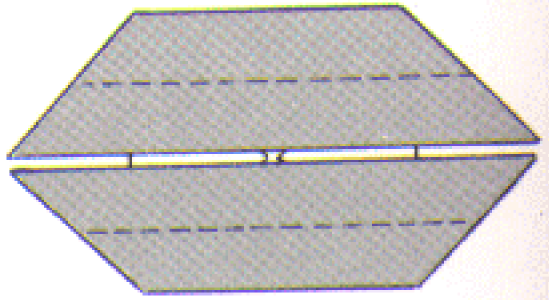




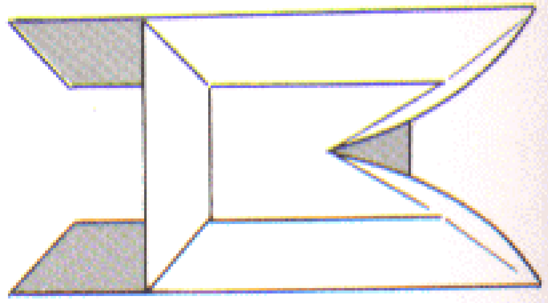
⑩



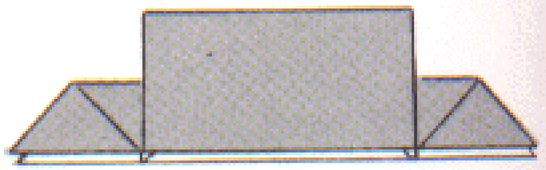
① Fold along dotted lines then fold back to form ②.



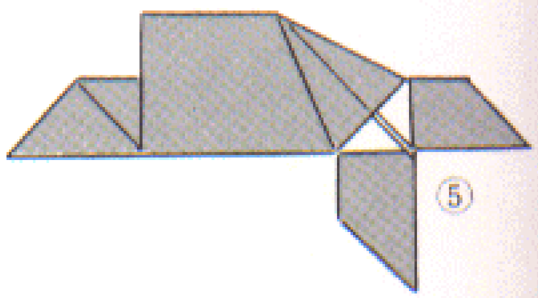
② Open out to form ③.



③



④



⑤

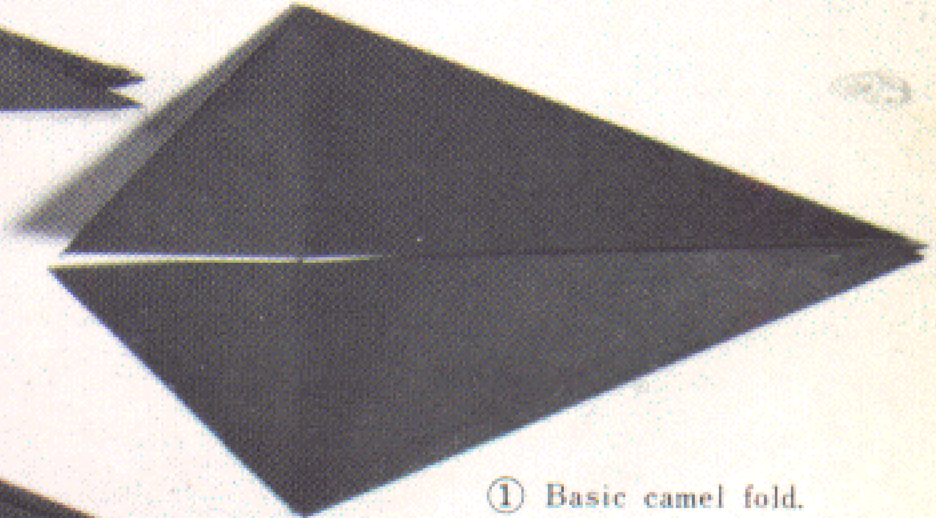
Compare this with goldfish mobile (p. 116). Follow diagrams carefully.

Carp

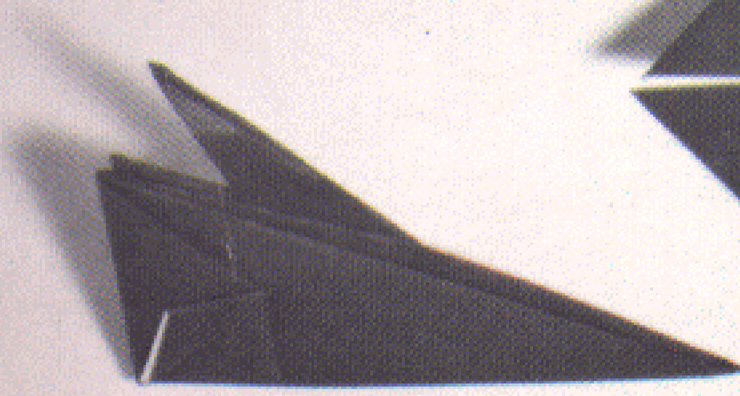
Boy's Day carp streamers can be made with this fold. Other fish can also be folded. Put your imagination to work.



④



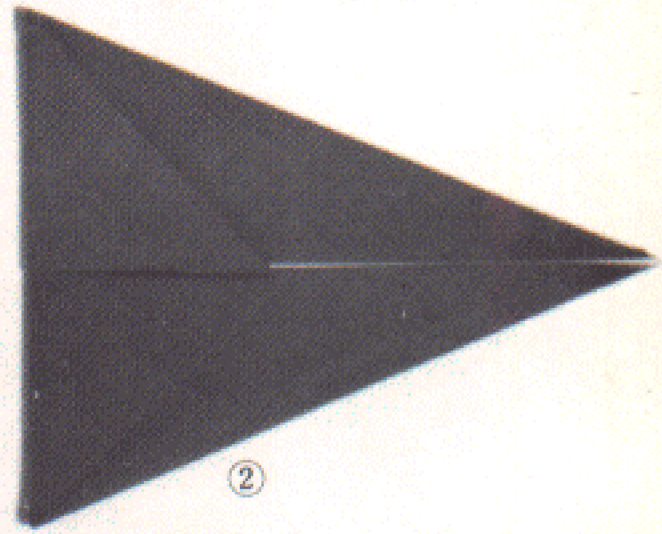
① Basic camel fold.



⑤ Dorsal fin folded as shown.

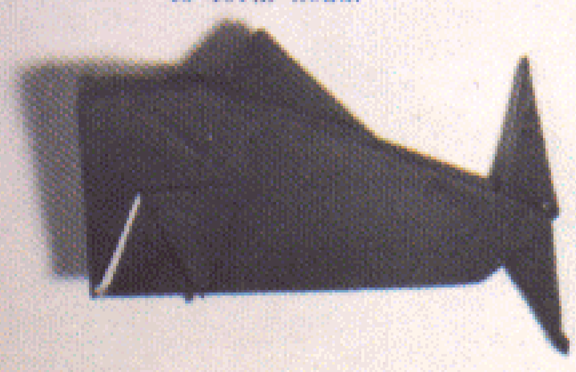


⑥ Cut end to form tail fins.



②

⑦ Fold front point inward to form head.





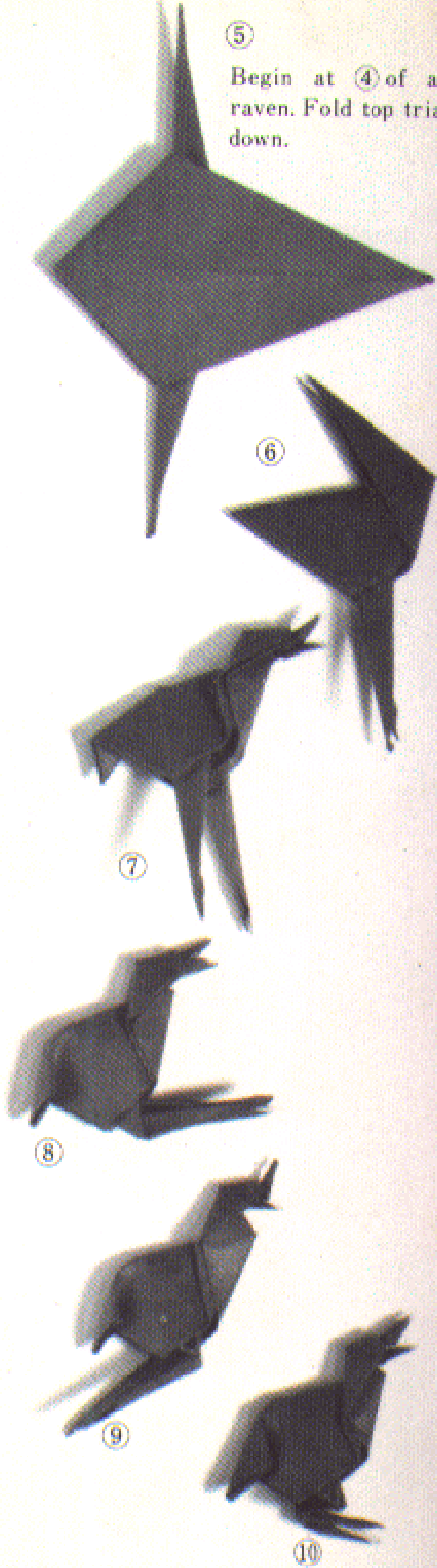
③

Origami aviary



Raven

The heads and legs of all birds are folded similarly. Compare your adult and young ravens closely. Great pleasure is gained when one creates lifelike animals from sheets of paper. It is a pleasure often forgotten in busy, modern life. Folding origami is refreshing and helps one to recall the simple joys that children experience. Origami also helps to develop creativity in children, and stimulates their interest in their surroundings.



⑤ Begin at ④ of adult raven. Fold top triangle down.

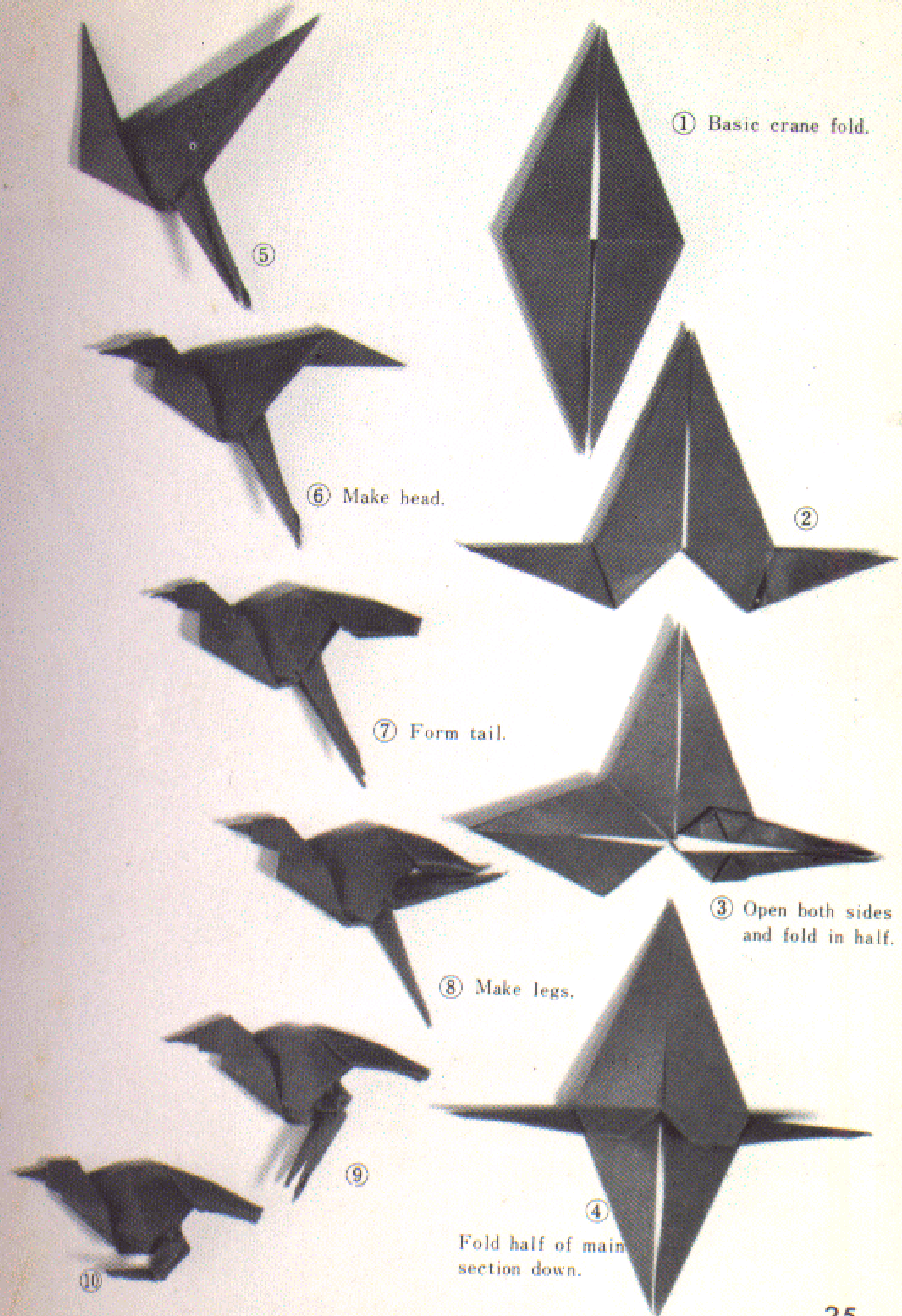
⑥

⑦

⑧

⑨

⑩



① Basic crane fold.

②

③ Open both sides and fold in half.

④ Fold half of main section down.

⑤

⑥ Make head.

⑦ Form tail.

⑧ Make legs.

⑨

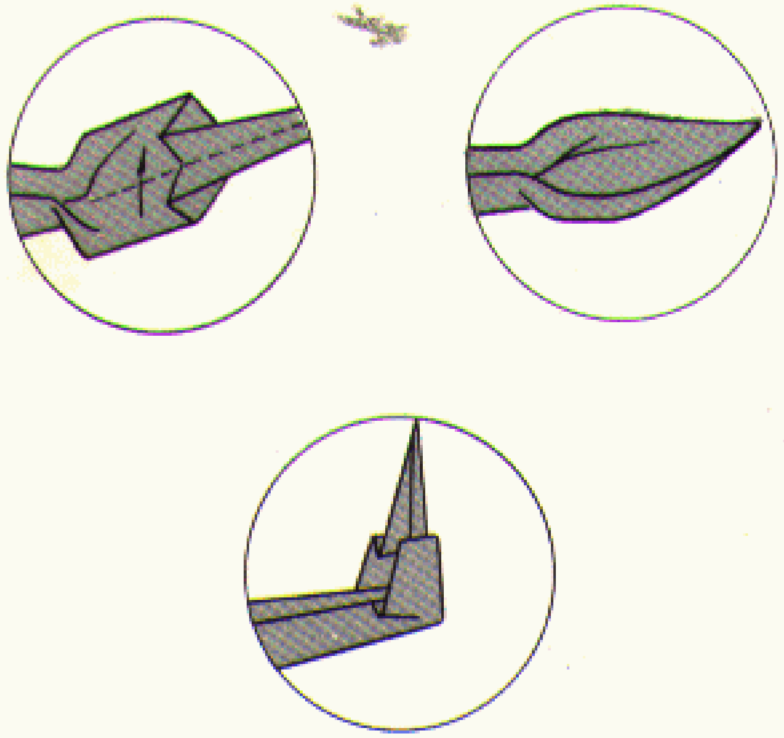
⑩

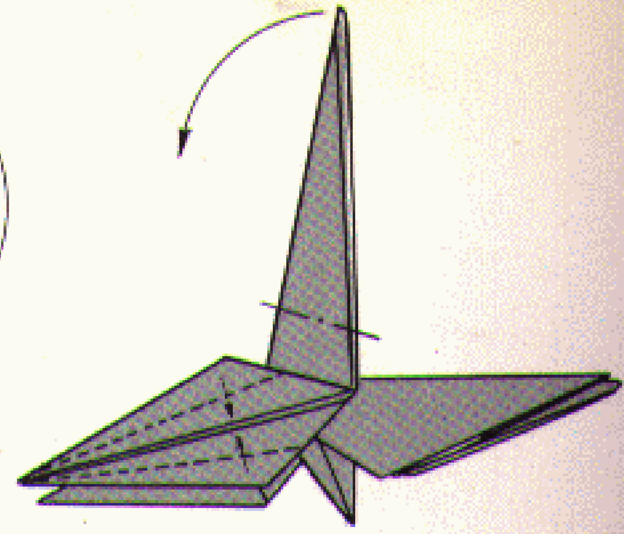




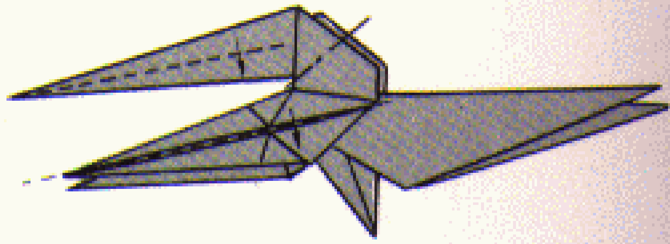
Raven A baby raven needs one-quarter the paper required for an adult raven. Attend closely to the shape of the raven's body.

◀The crane fold is complicated, and an adhesive probably is necessary. In the illustrations, the standing crane is made of *mitsumata* paper while I used *saiun* paper for the flamingo.

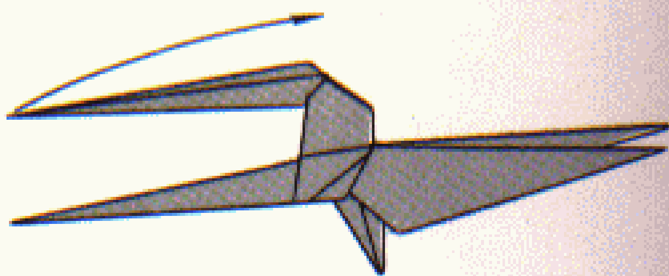




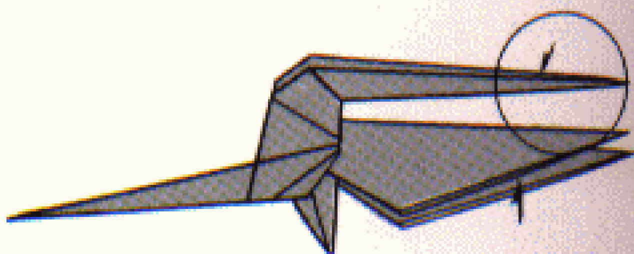
⑨ Open left portion (legs) and fold back along dotted lines. Open neck part and fold down.



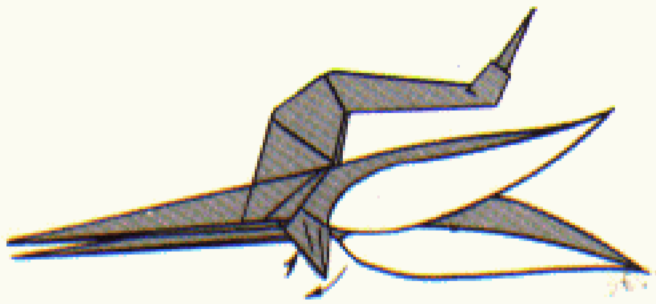
⑩ Fold neck in half along dotted line. Bring legs together again.



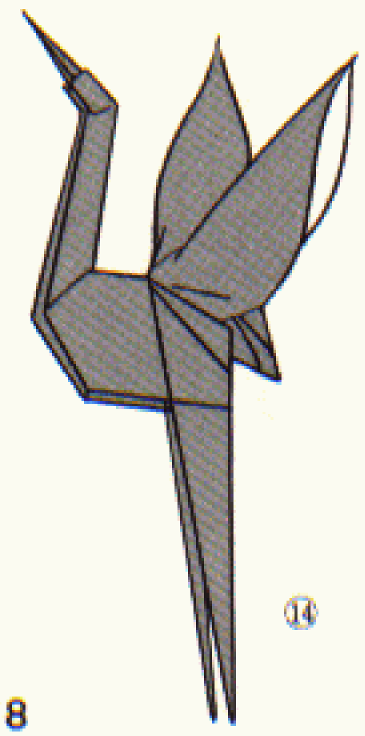
⑪ Turn back neck in direction of arrow.



⑫ Refer to insets to form head.

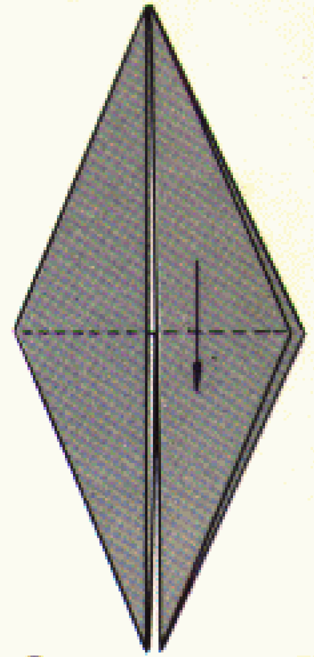


⑬ Open wings, and fold down tail.

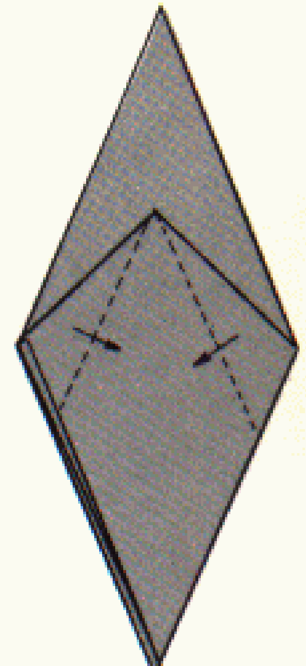


⑭

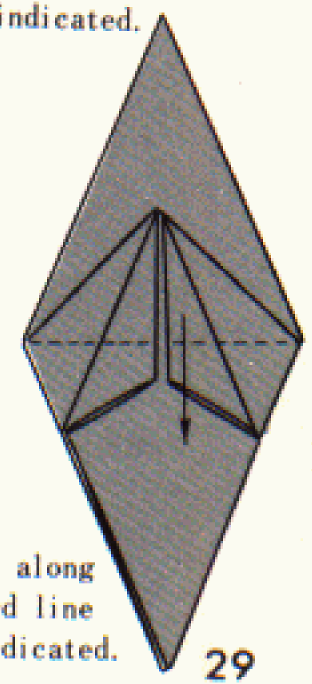
Standing crane



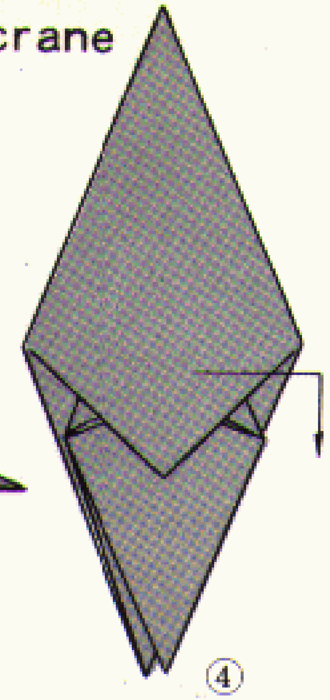
① Basic crane fold.



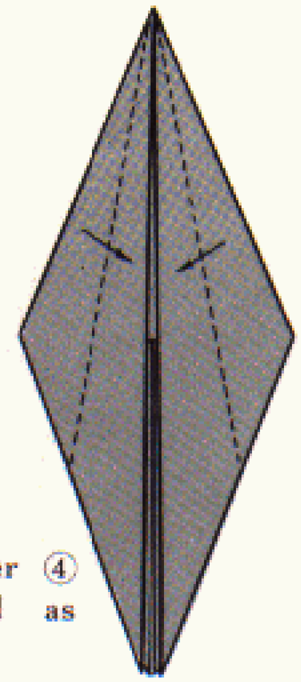
② Fold along dotted line as indicated.



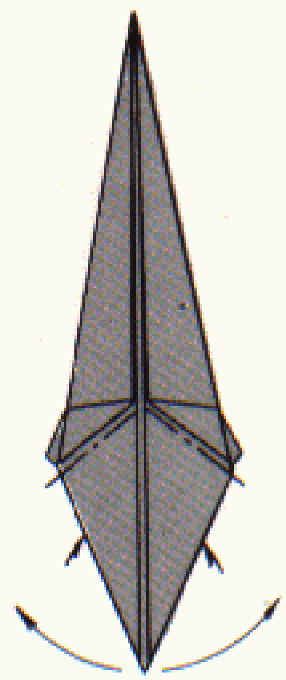
③ Fold along dotted line as indicated.



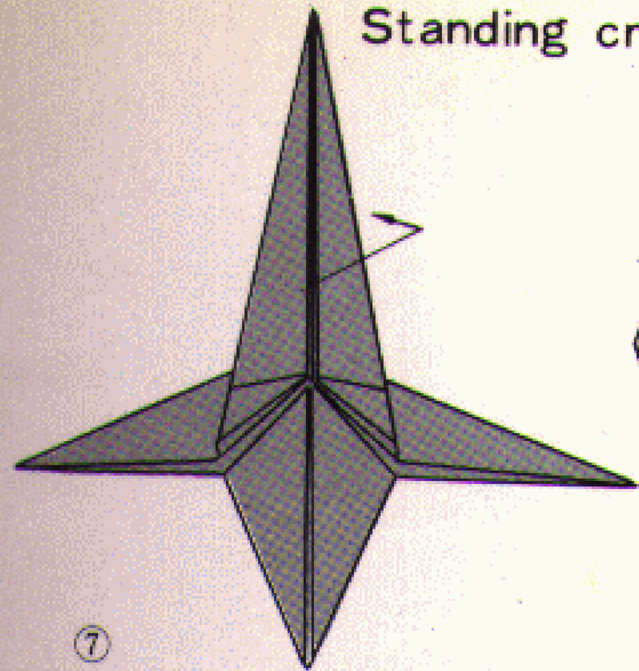
④



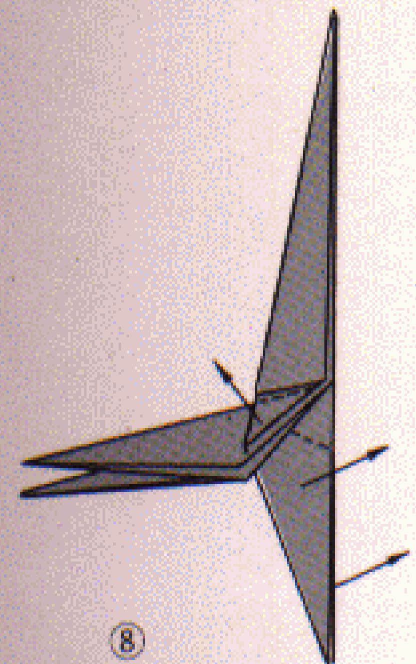
⑤ Turn over ④ and fold as indicated.



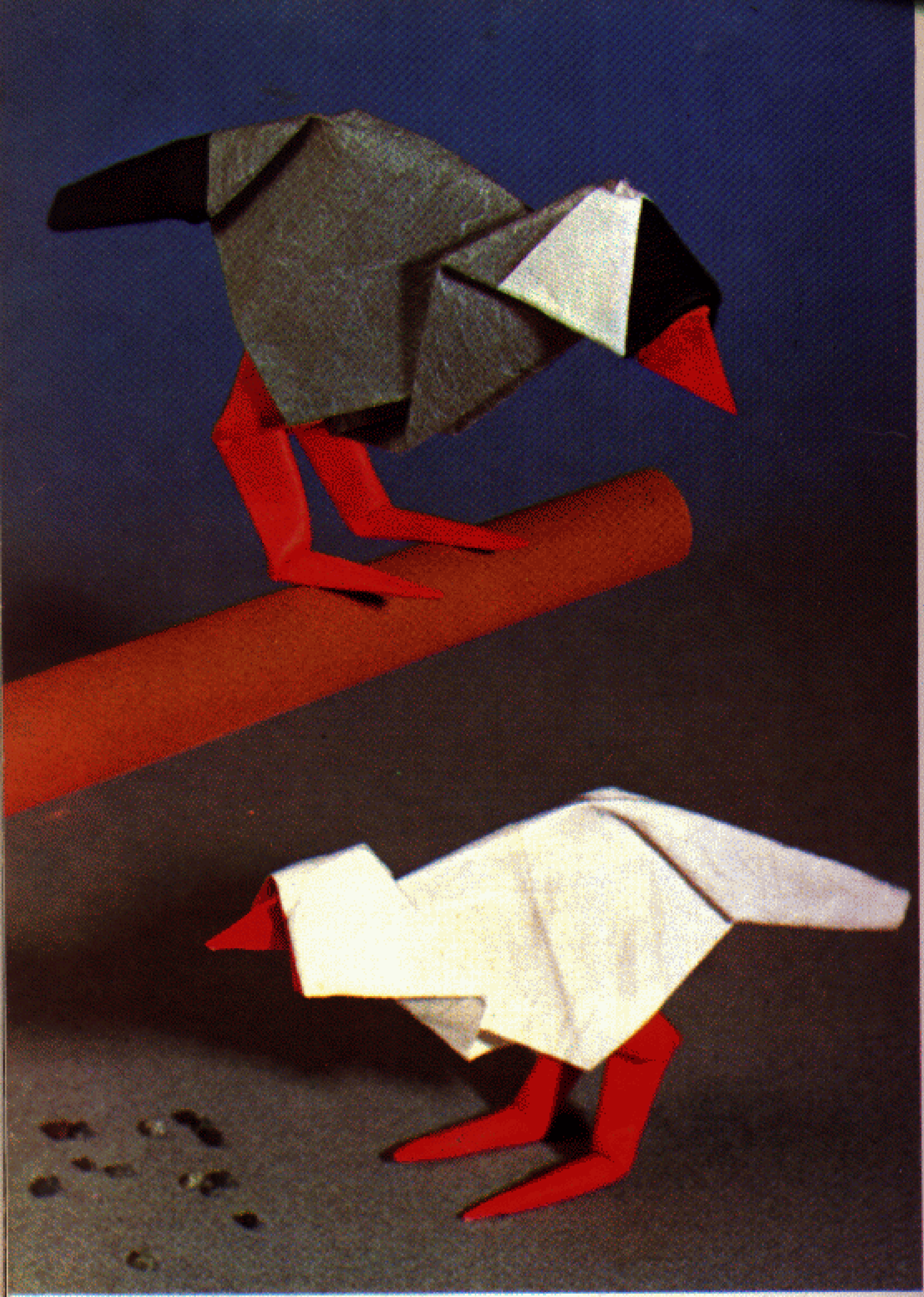
⑥ Open bottom section outward.



⑦ Cut wings and fold in half lengthwise.

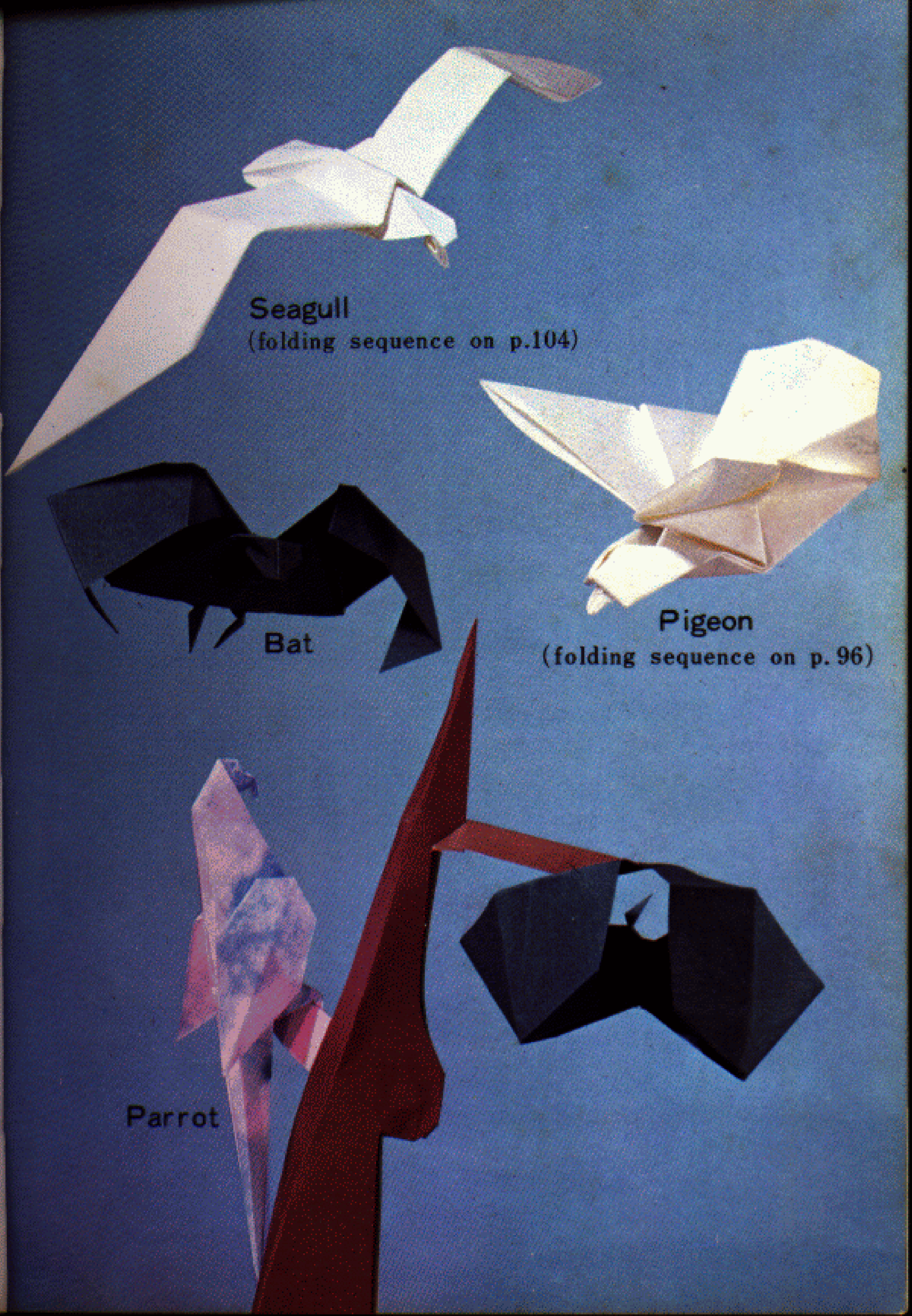


⑧ Pull wings up as high as possible.



Java sparrow

I made this sparrow with thick, smooth *torinoko* paper.
(folding sequence on p. 106)



Seagull
(folding sequence on p.104)

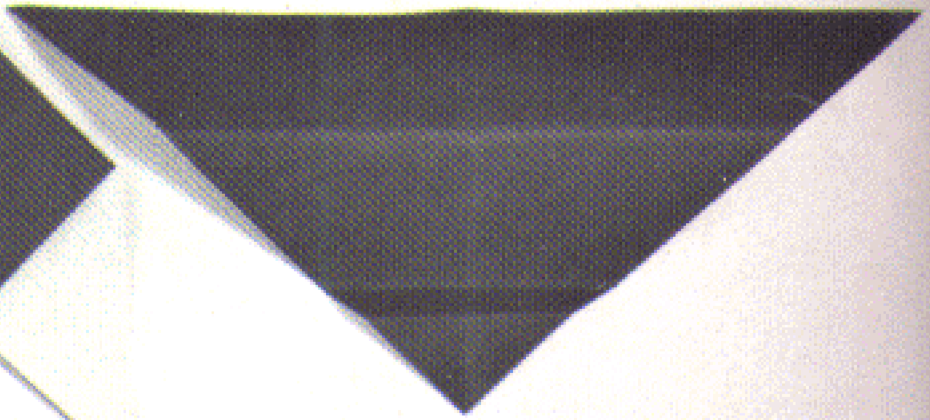
Bat

Pigeon
(folding sequence on p. 96)

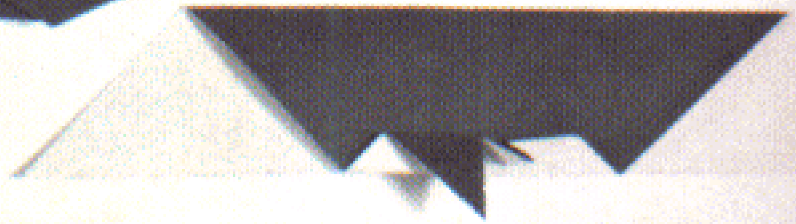
Parrot

Bat

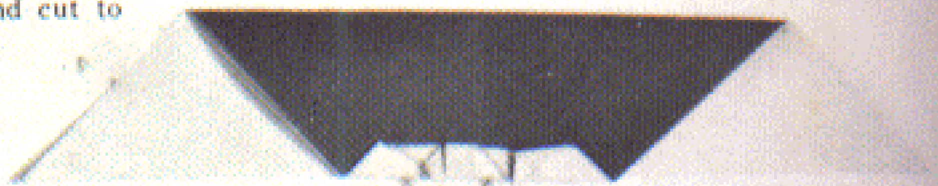
As with parrot, working paper is in isosceles triangle shape. The easiest way to prepare the triangle is to cut a piece of square paper diagonally in half. The triangle shape can be used to experiment folding various shapes.



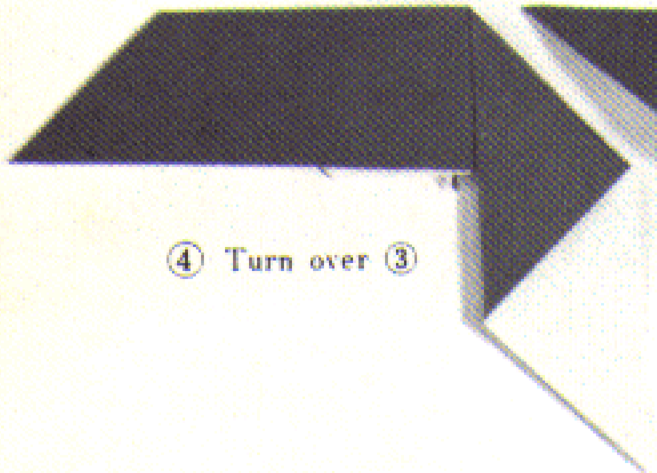
① Use triangle-shaped paper.



② Cut to make legs.



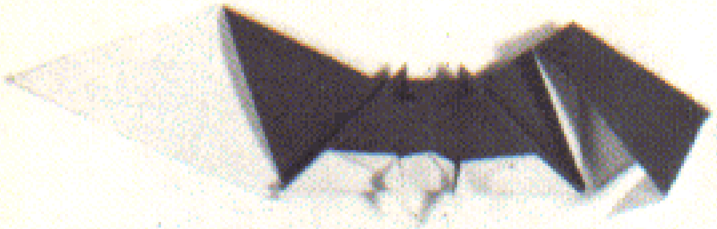
③ Fine folds needed for legs.



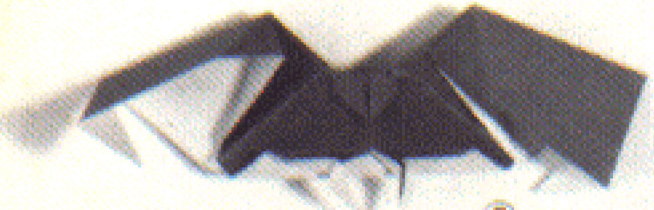
④ Turn over ③



⑤

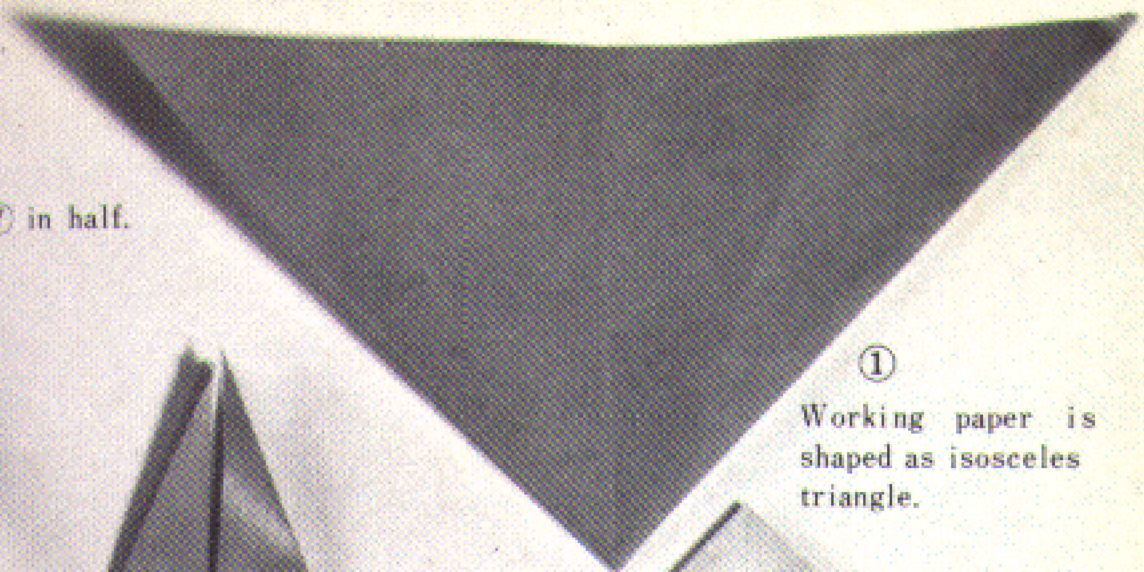


⑥ Turn over ⑤ and cut to form ears.

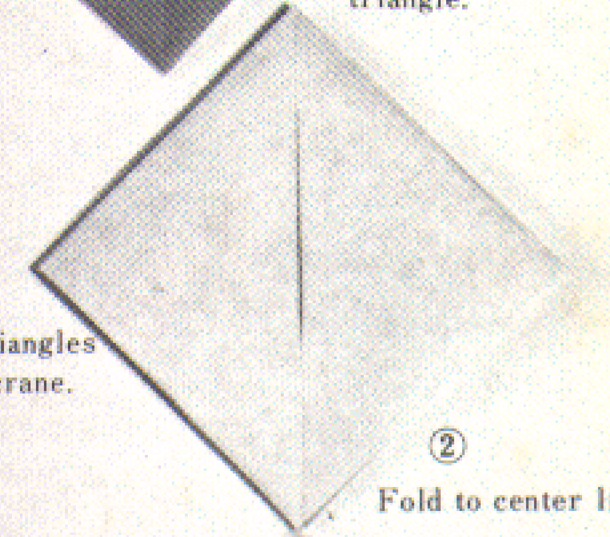


⑦

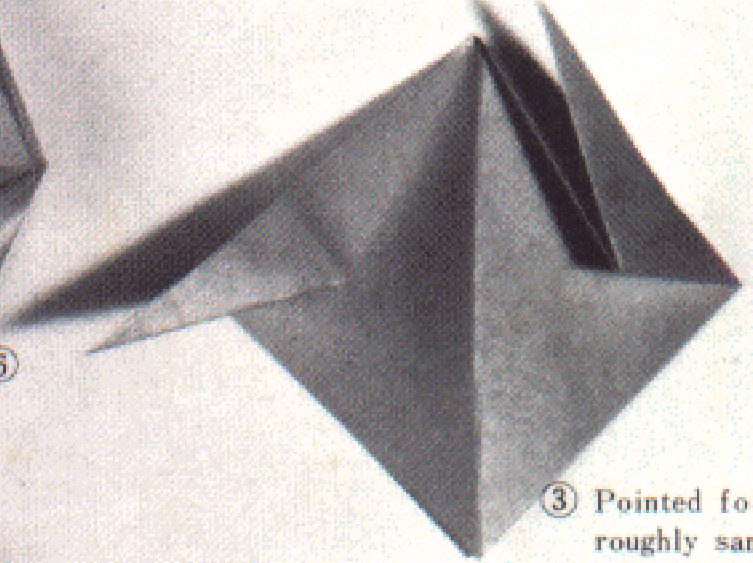
Parrot



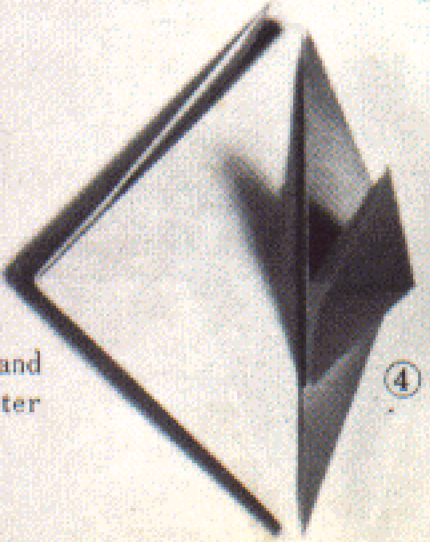
① Working paper is shaped as isosceles triangle.



② Fold to center line.



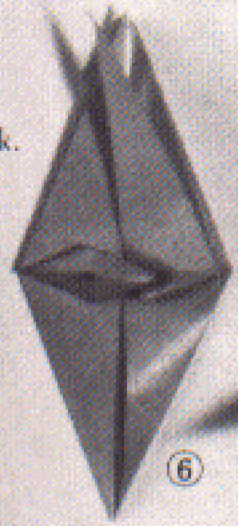
③ Pointed folds roughly same as basic camel fold.



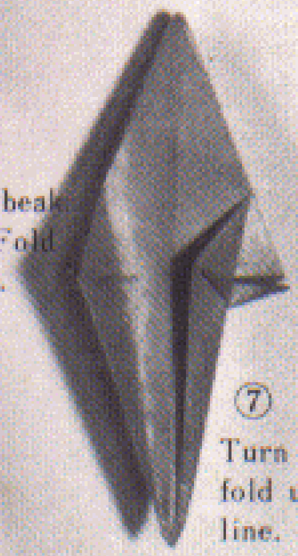
④ Turn over ③.



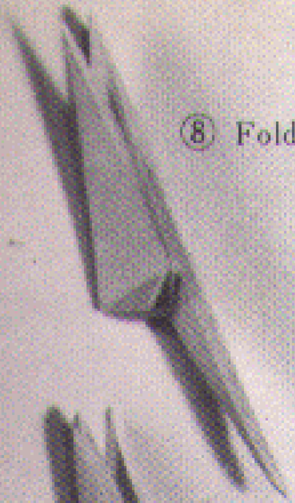
⑤ Fold small triangles inward like crane.



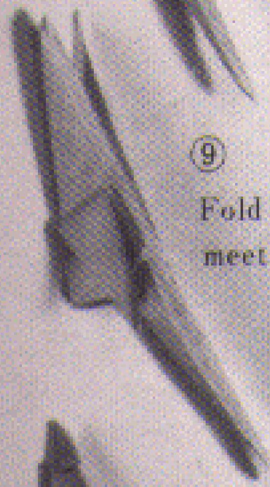
⑥



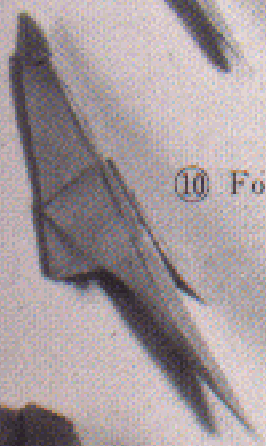
⑦ Turn over ⑥ and fold up to center line.



⑧ Fold ⑦ in half.



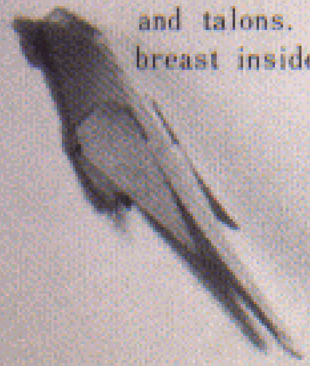
⑨ Fold wings to meet back line.



⑩ Fold beak.



⑪ Fold head.

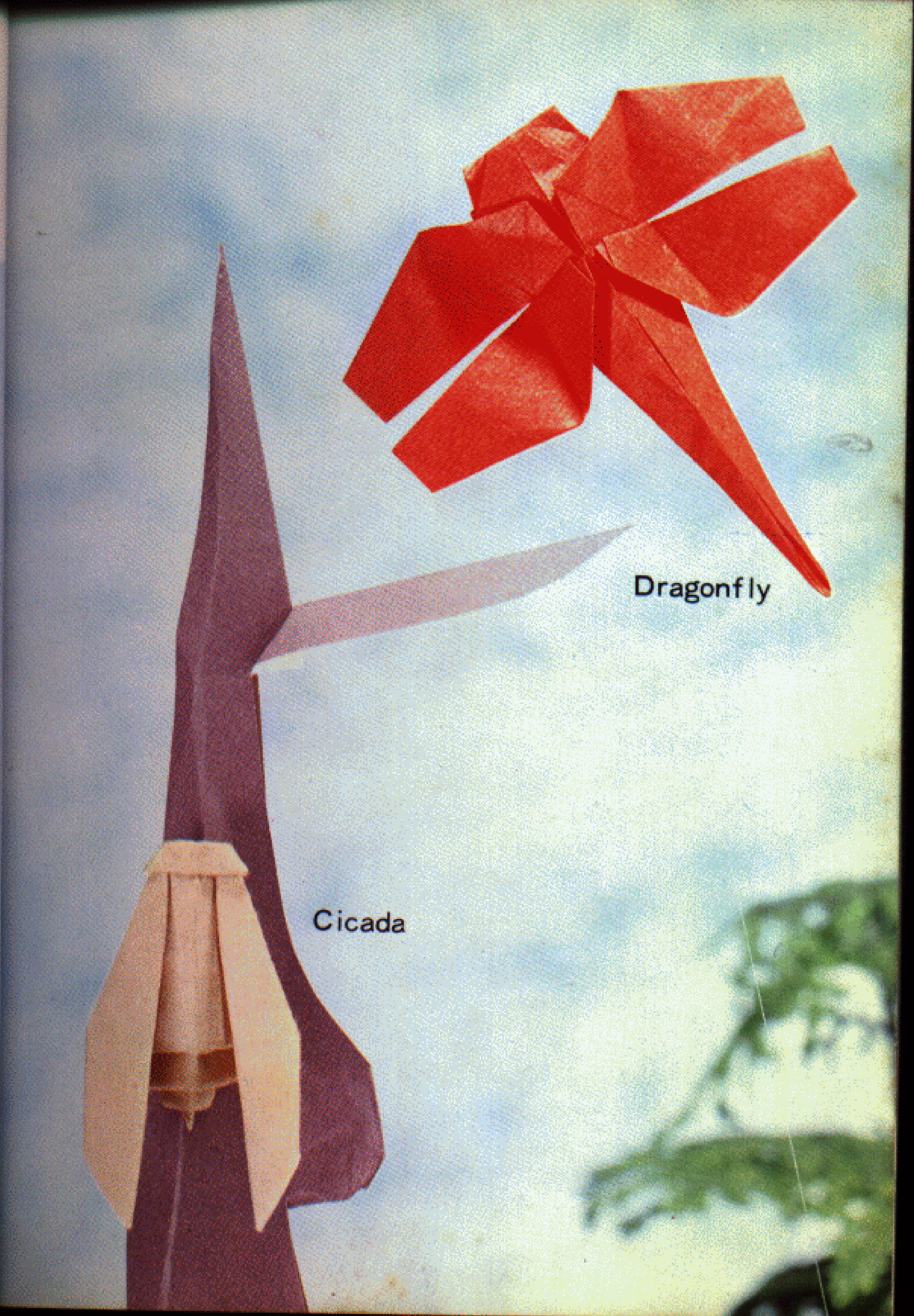


⑫ Form tip of beak and talons. Fold breast inside.

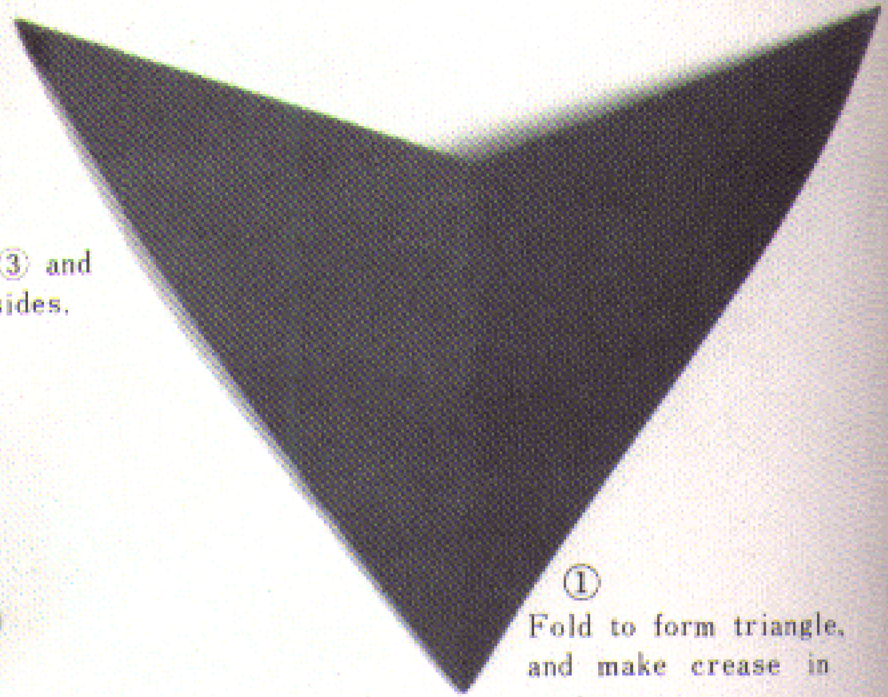
Bird in flight

With duo-colored paper you can obtain color variations by folding one time from one side and the next time from the other side.
(folding sequence on p.109)

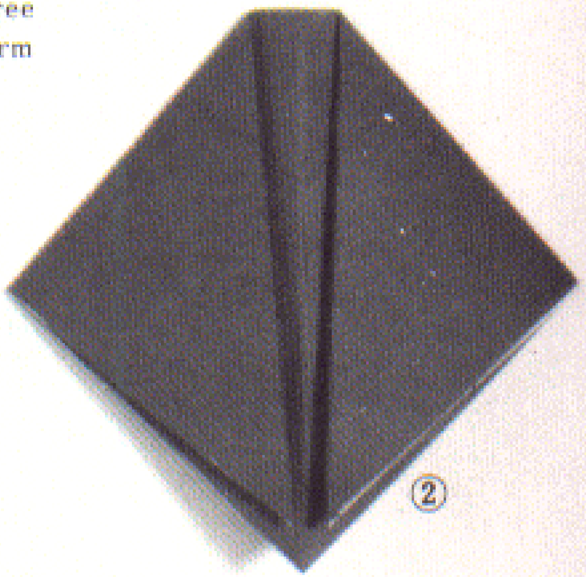




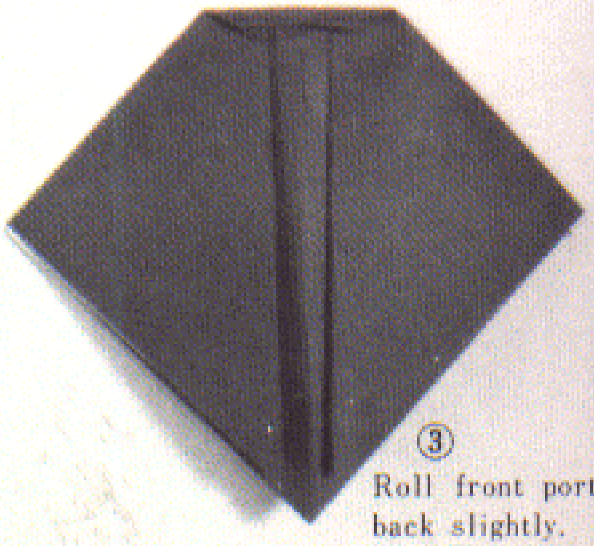
Cicada



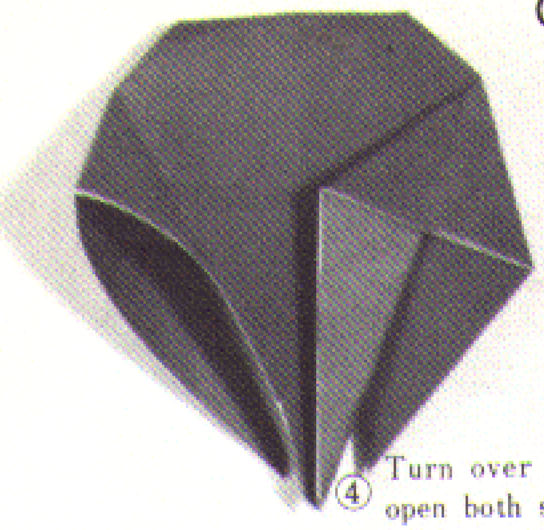
① Fold to form triangle, and make crease in center.



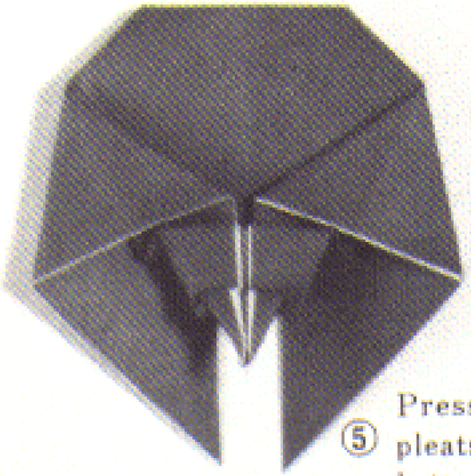
②



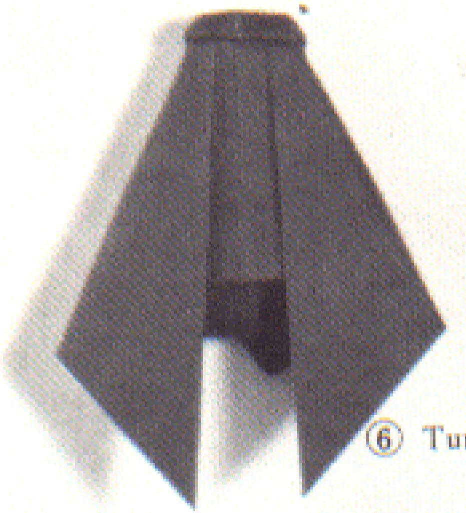
③ Roll front portion back slightly.



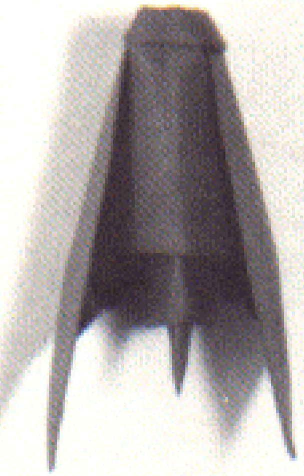
④ Turn over ③ and open both sides.



⑤ Press two or three pleats to form bottom.

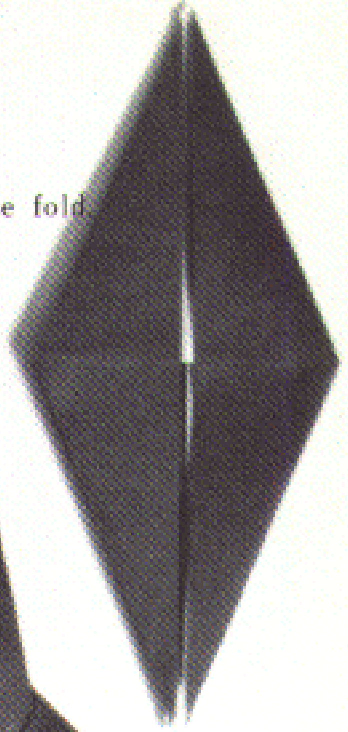


⑥ Turn over ⑤.

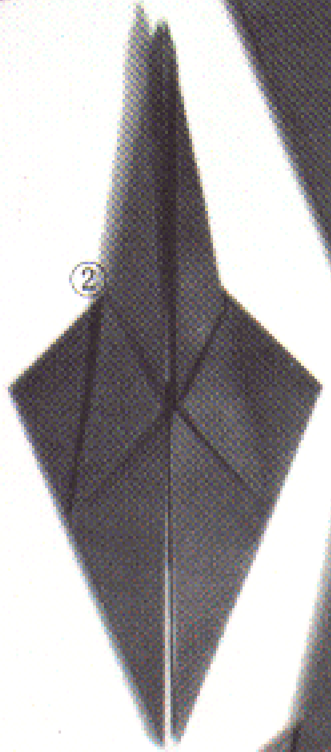


⑦

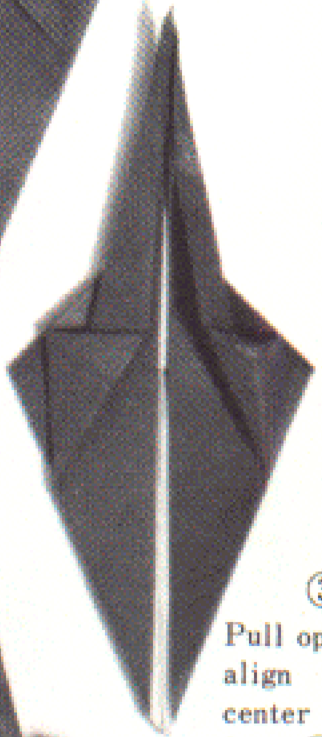
Dragonfly



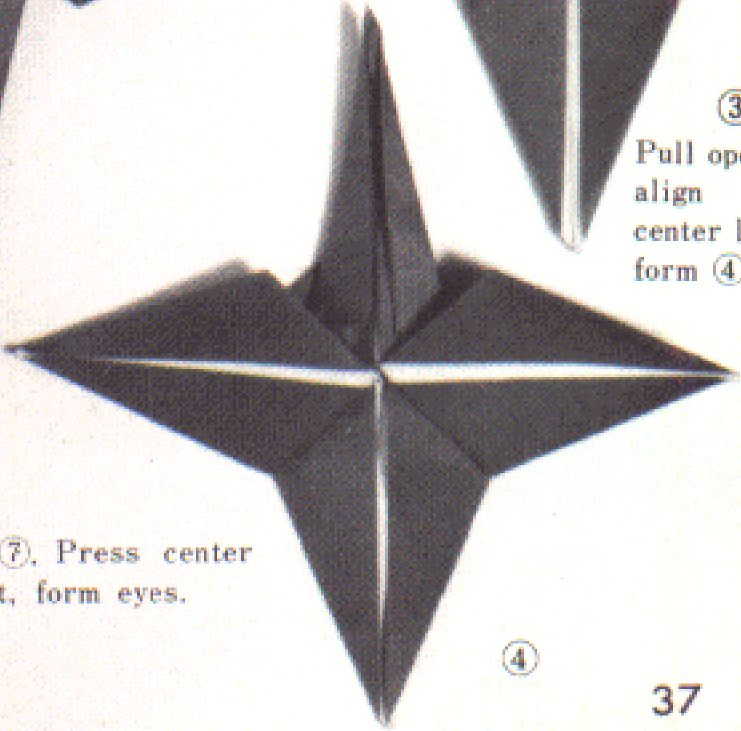
① Basic crane fold.



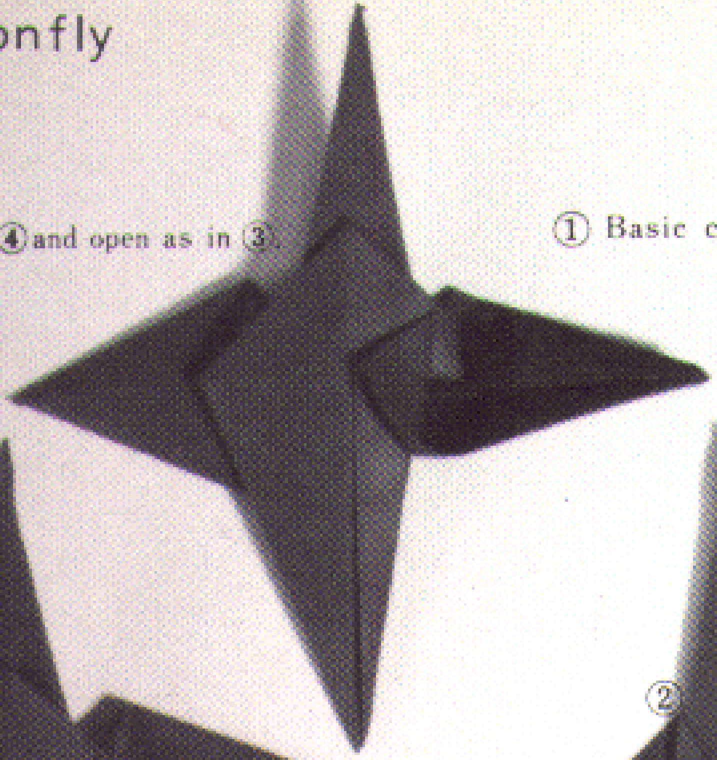
②



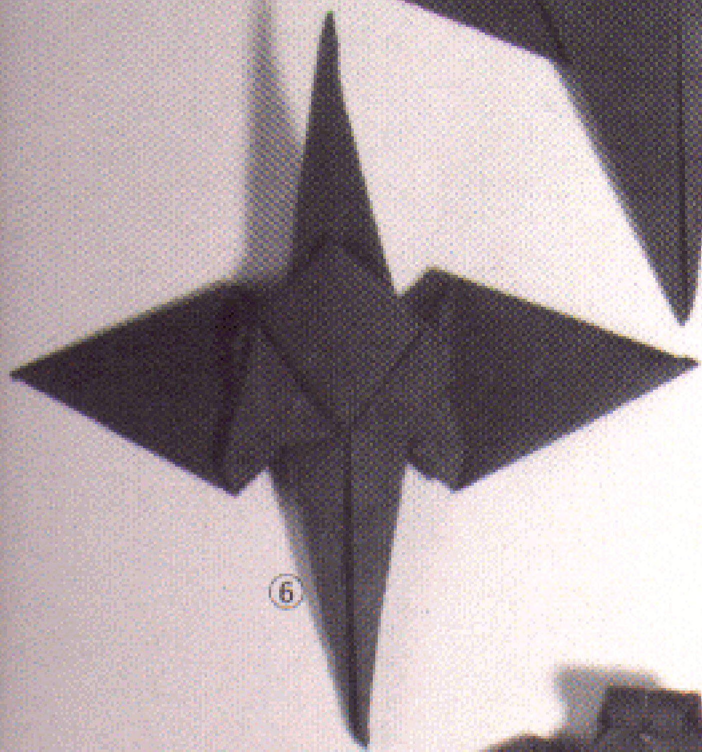
③ Pull open and align along center line to form ④.



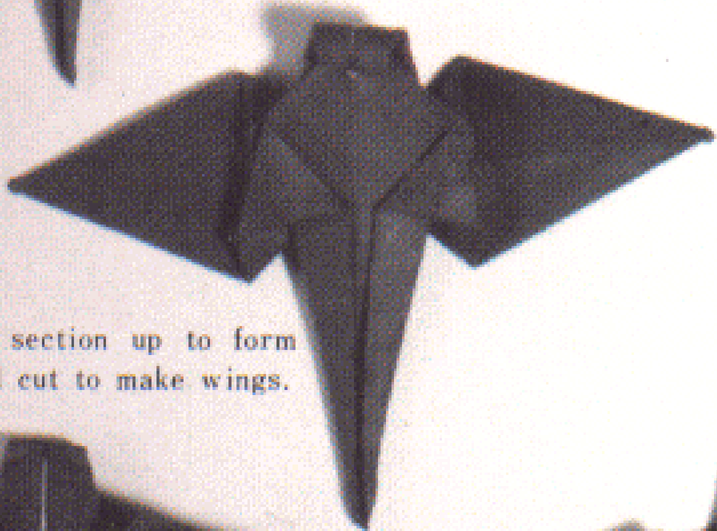
④



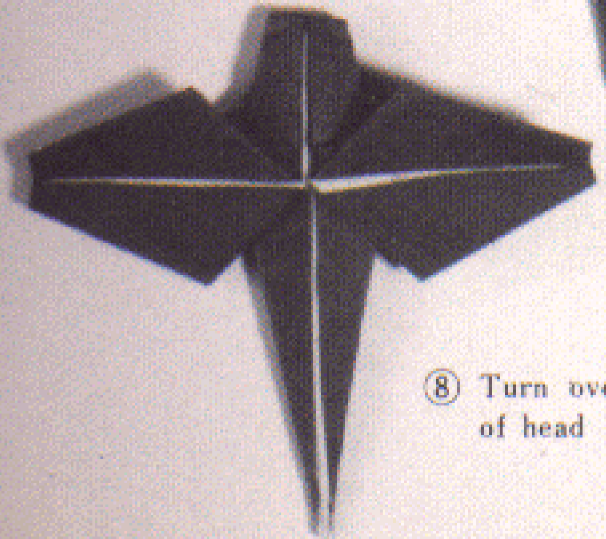
⑤ Turn over ④ and open as in ③.



⑥

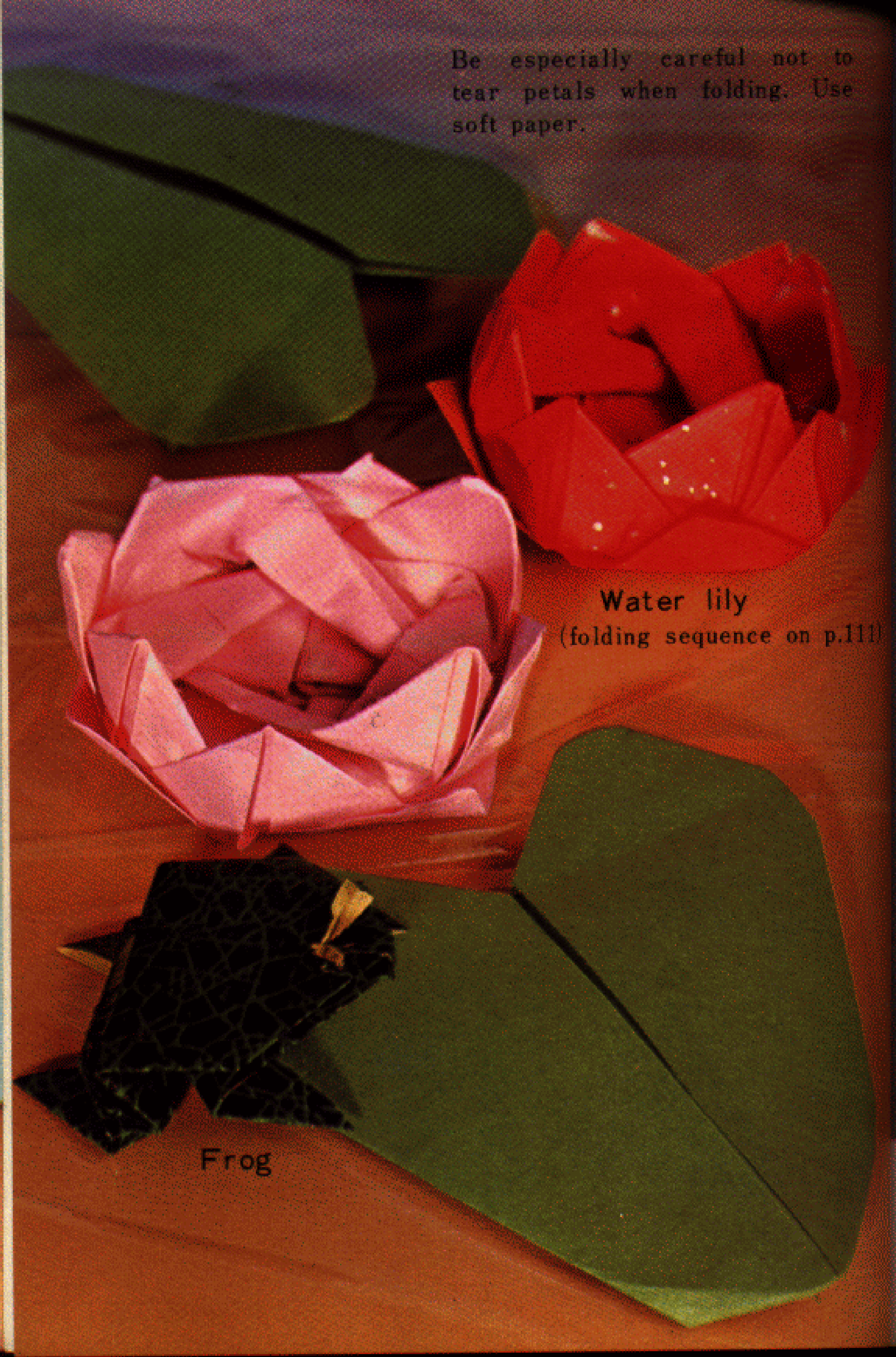


⑦ Roll tip section up to form head, and cut to make wings.



⑧ Turn over ⑦. Press center of head flat, form eyes.

Be especially careful not to tear petals when folding. Use soft paper.



Water lily
(folding sequence on p.111)

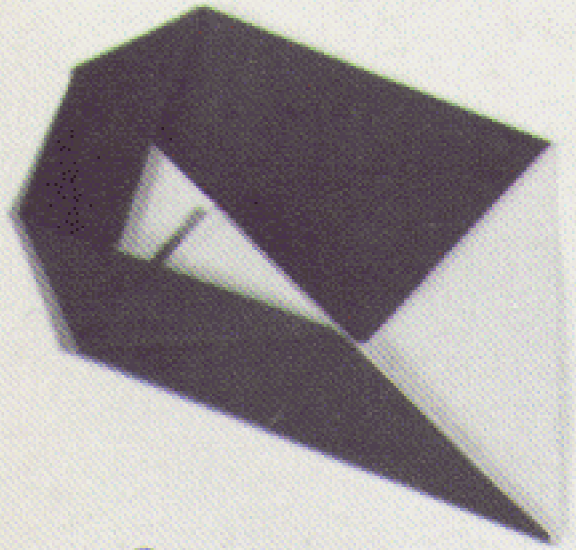
Frog



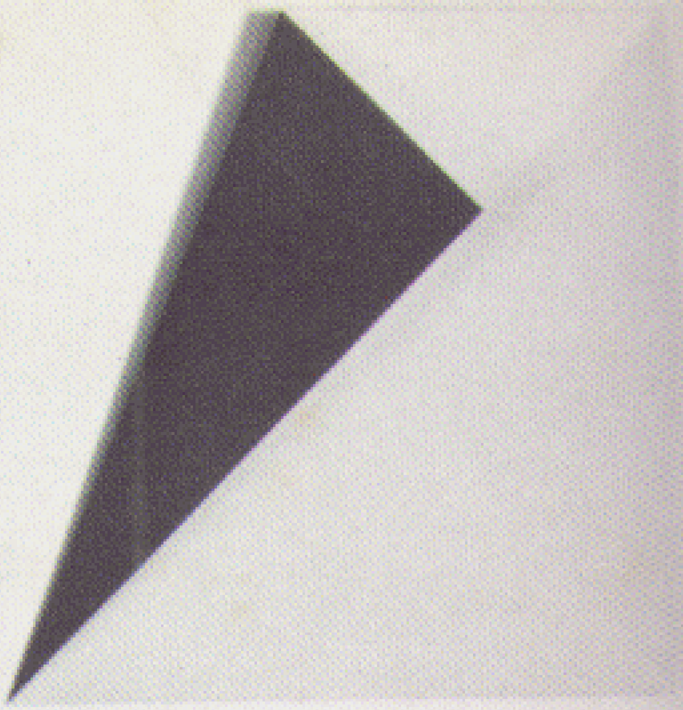
Camellia

Use only slight pressure when folding to give the camellia edges their proper shape. More striking results achieved with duo-colored paper.

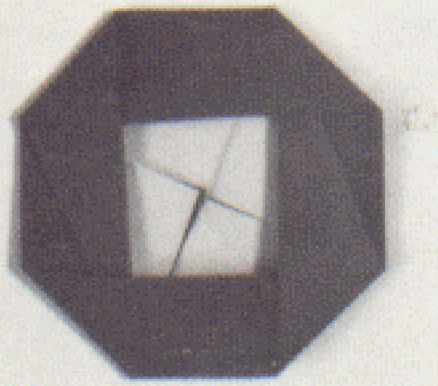
Camellia



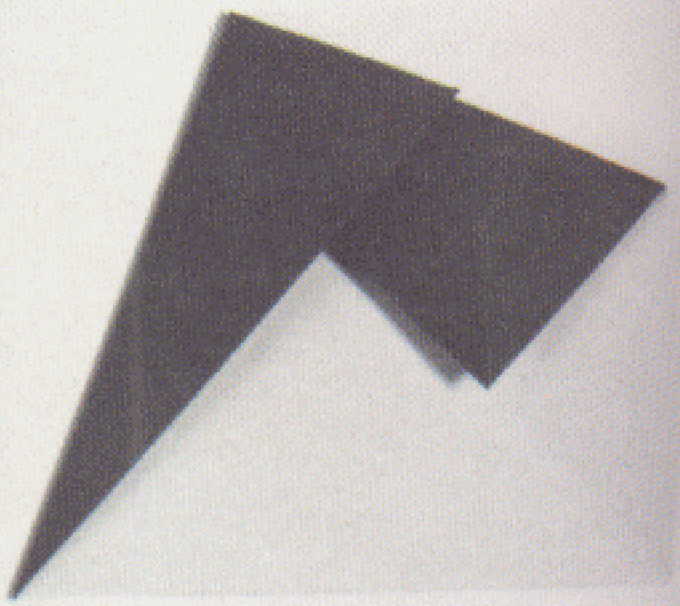
③ Fold along creases keeping center corner at right-angles.



① Form creases by folding diagonally as shown.



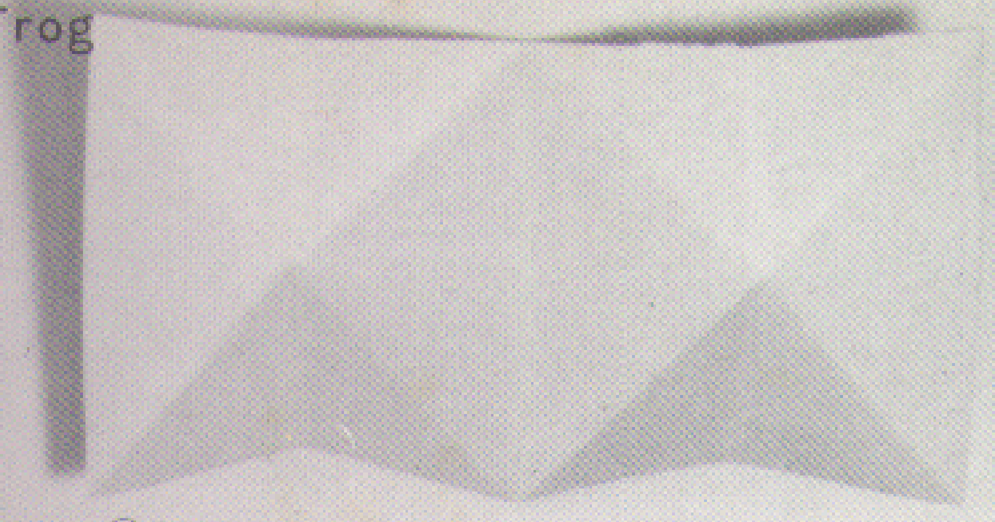
④ Fold other edges similarly.



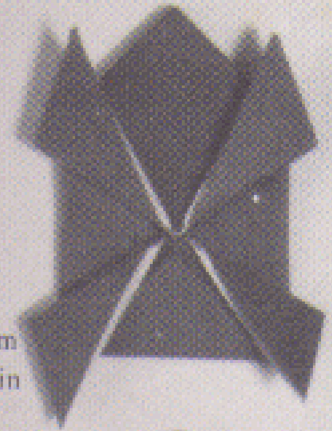
② Move ① ninety degrees clockwise and fold next corner.

The camellia is one of the easiest origami flowers to make. The creases made in ① helped in steps ③ and ④. Fold so that one crease touches another crease. Creases often play an important role in origami.

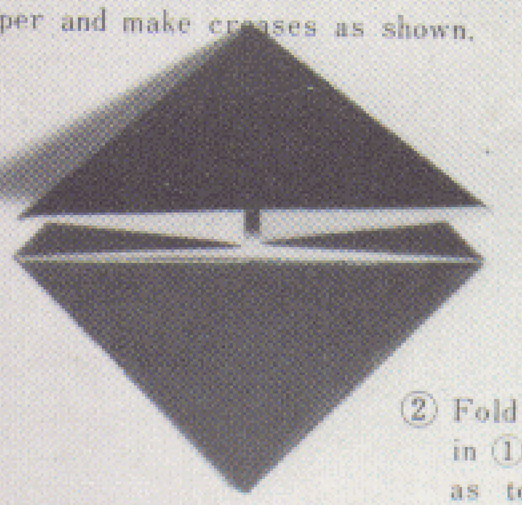
Frog



① Prepare rectangular paper and make creases as shown.



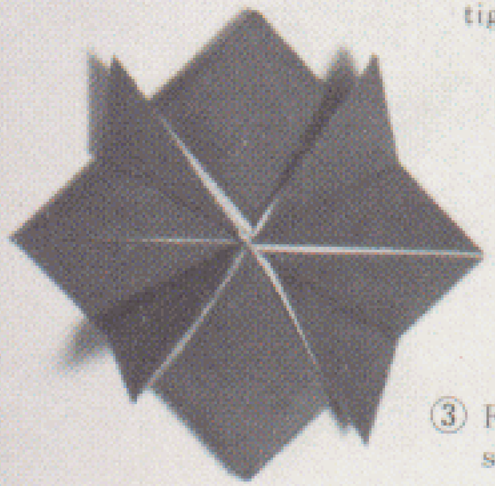
⑤ Fold bottom triangle as in ④.



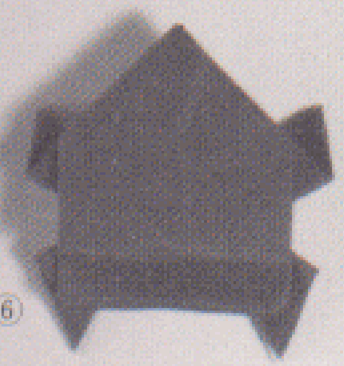
② Fold along creases in ①. Bottom same as top but folded tightly.



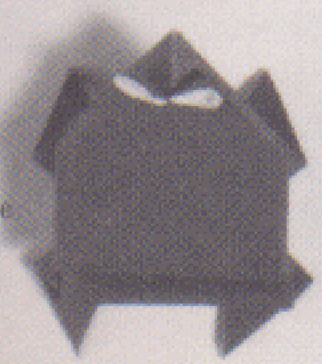
⑥ Fold at center line, and fold back half of folded part.



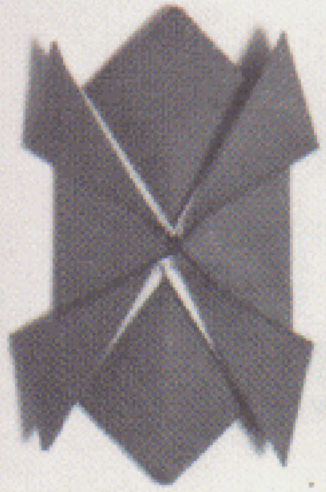
③ Fold back as shown.



⑦ Turn over ⑥.



⑧ Cut to make eyes.



④ Fold back both edges to center.



Iris (folding sequence on p.110)

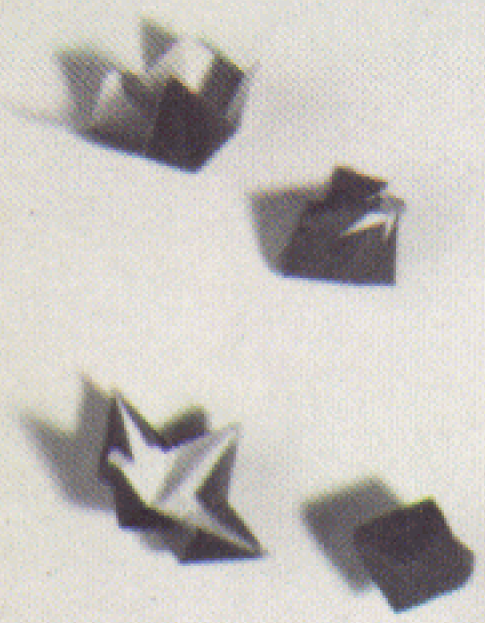


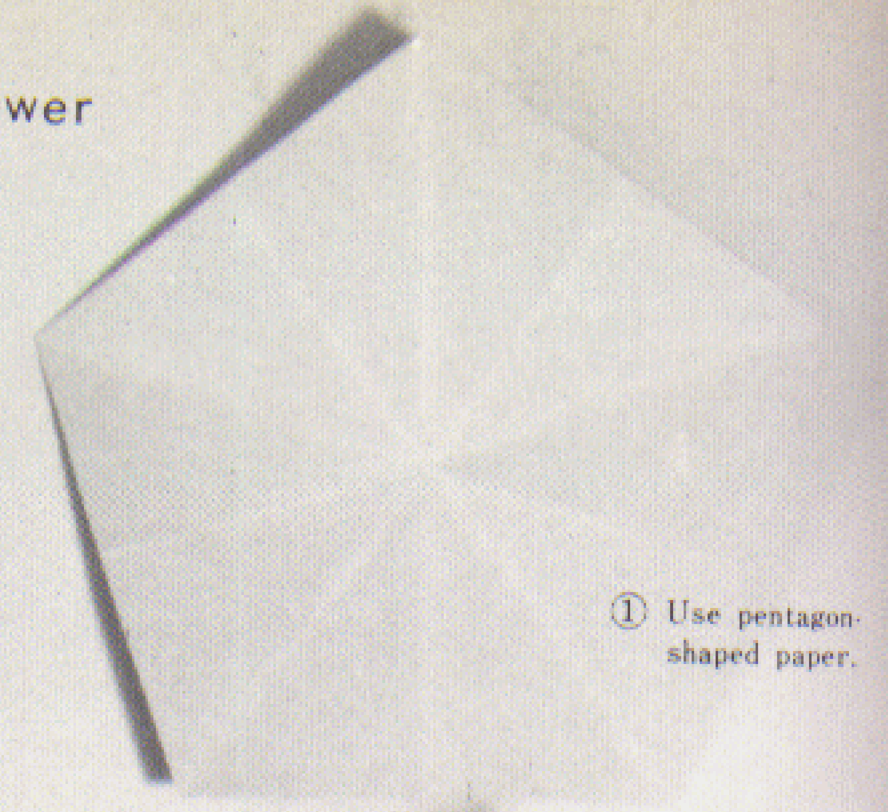
Broad bellflower **Lily**

I used folkcraft paper for the iris, *Torinoko* paper for the broad bellflower, and "starmine" paper for the lily. Paper used is monochrome, although I used a different color for each flower.

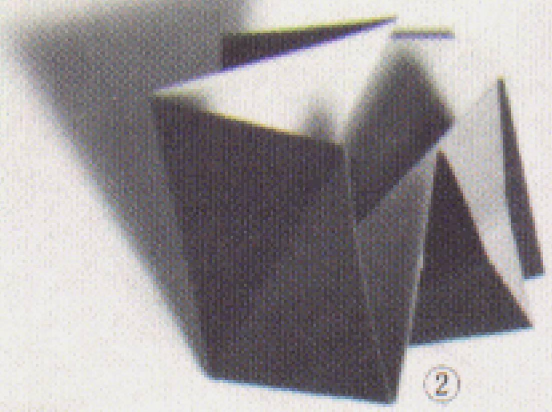
Broad bellflower

Pistil also made from pentagon-shaped paper.

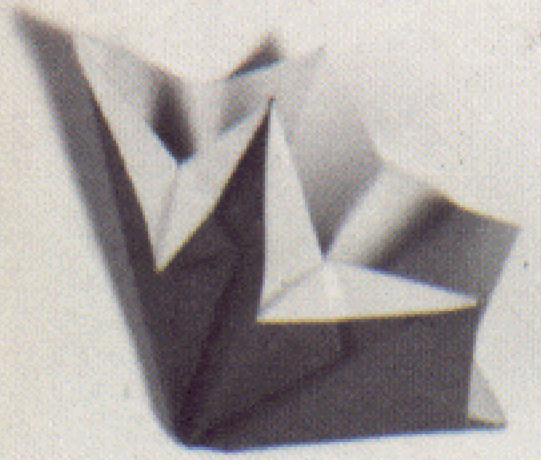




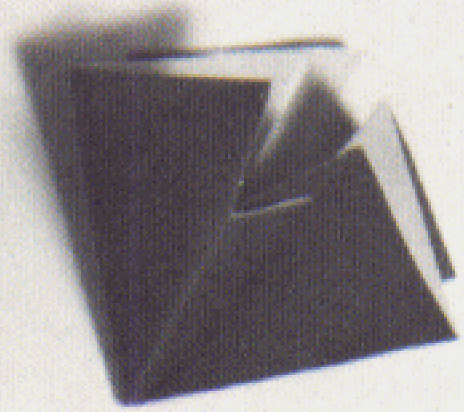
① Use pentagon-shaped paper.



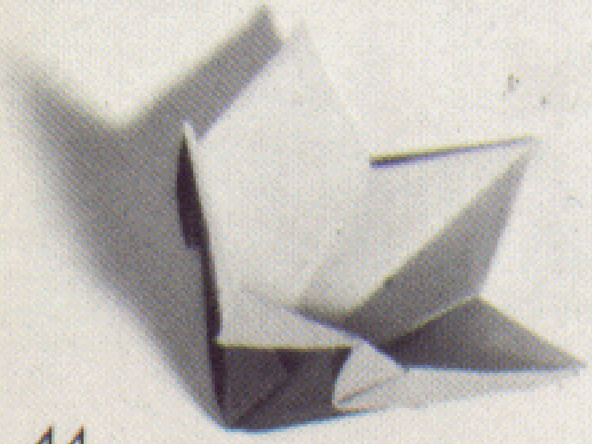
② Gather all edges, using creases in ①



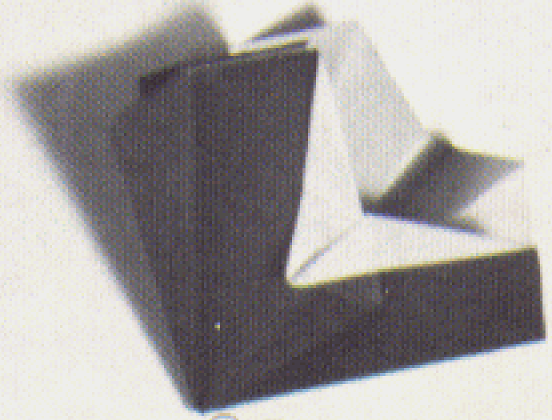
⑤



③ Fold as shown.



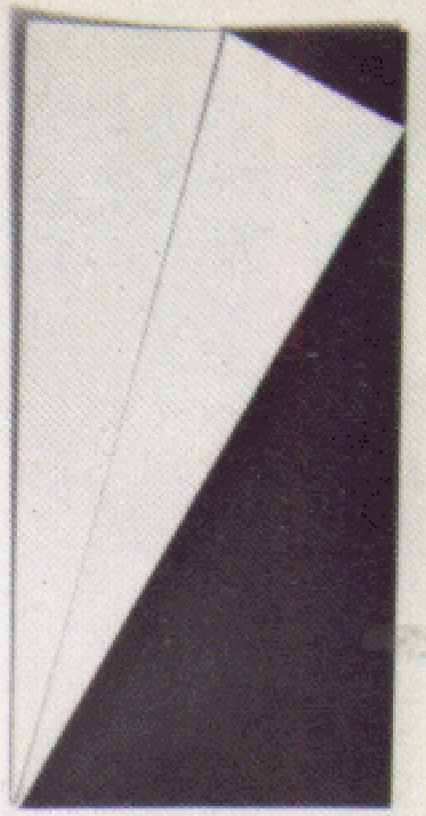
⑥

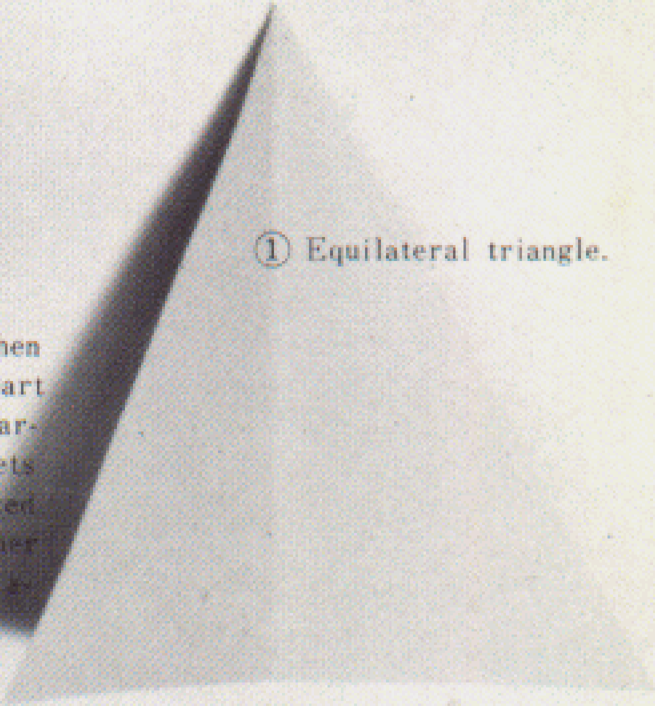


④ Turn out folded sections.

Lily

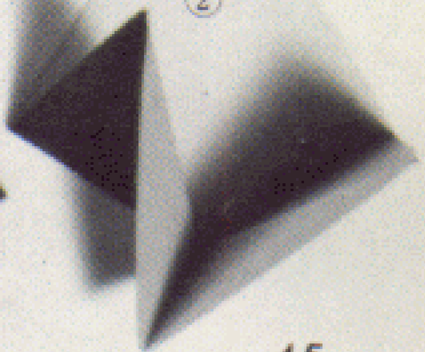
Two trianguler sheets of paper are folded separately and joined to form the lily.



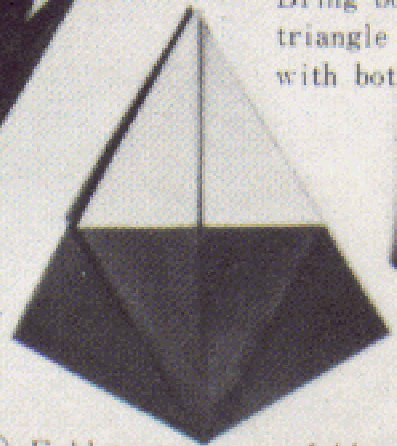


① Equilateral triangle.

Bring bottom left corner to top of triangle to make crease. Repeat with bottom right corner.



②



③ Fold to top, open folds, and push flat.



④ Make creases.

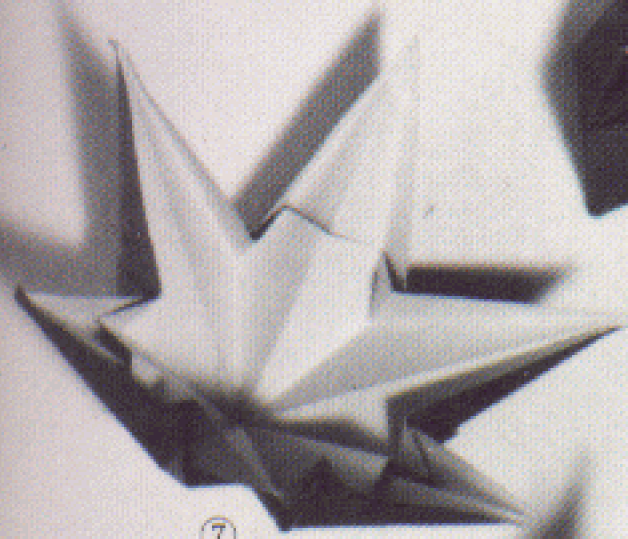
Fold inward along creases.



⑤



⑥ Open and then fold bottom part to make it narrow. Two sheets of paper placed one on the other and refolded along creases.



⑦



⑧



⑨ Roll petal tips down for effect.

Hydrangea parts are pasted on a foundation about the size of a fist. The snail's head may give you some trouble.

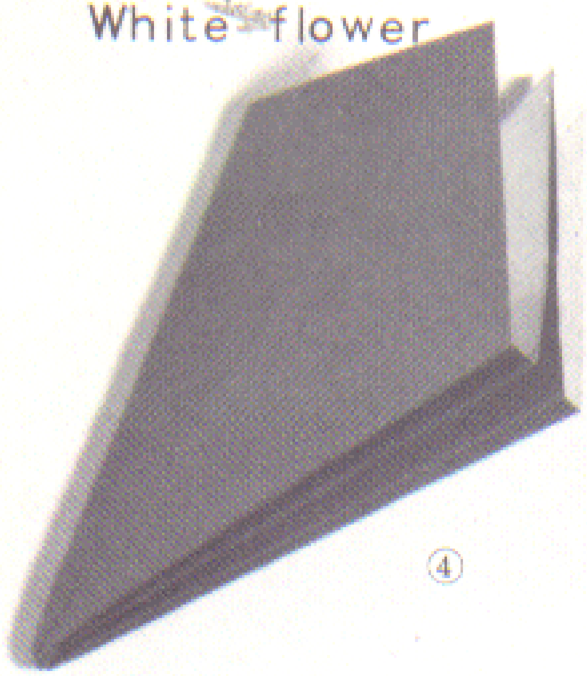




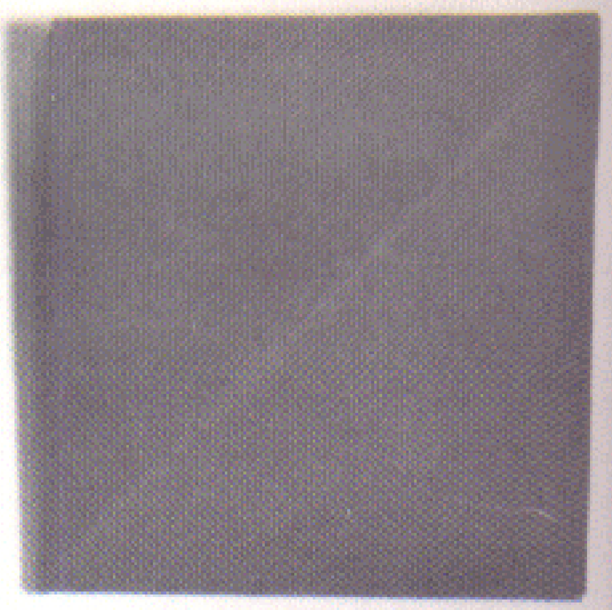
White flower

Make many small flowers and fix them on branches to gain the best effect.

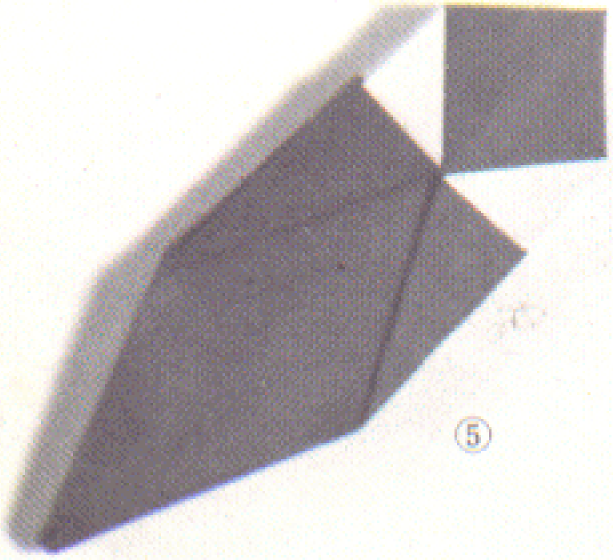
White flower



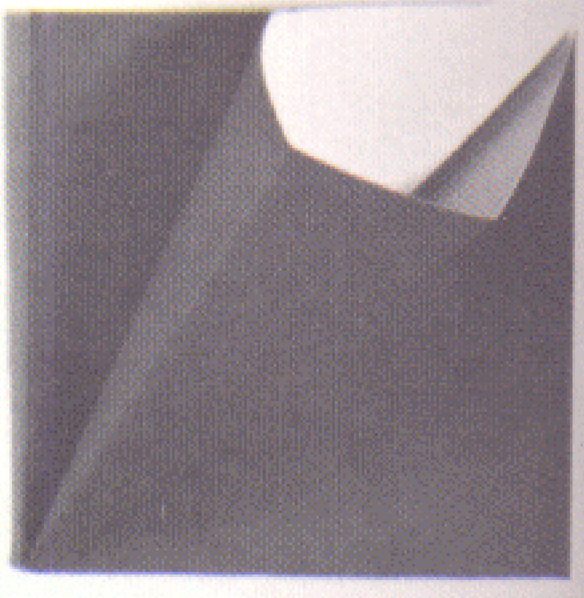
④



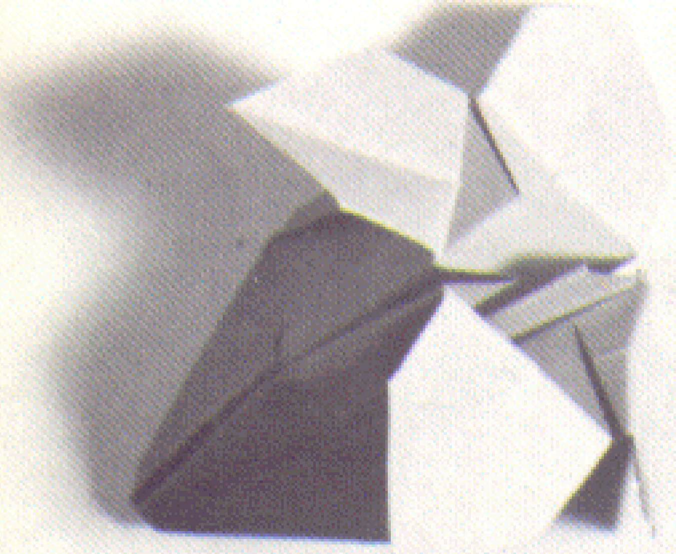
① Fold in four.



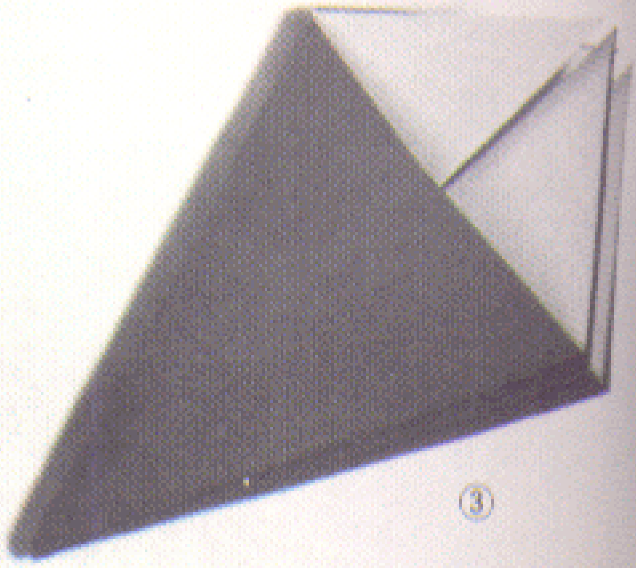
⑤



②



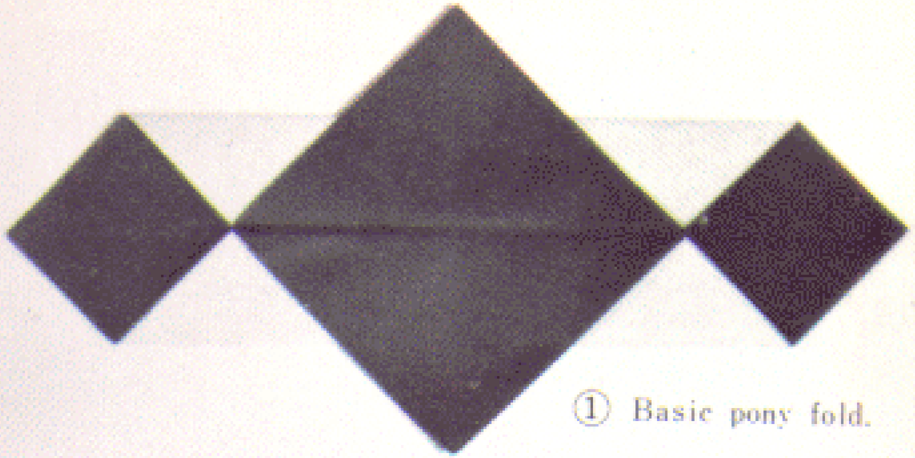
⑥



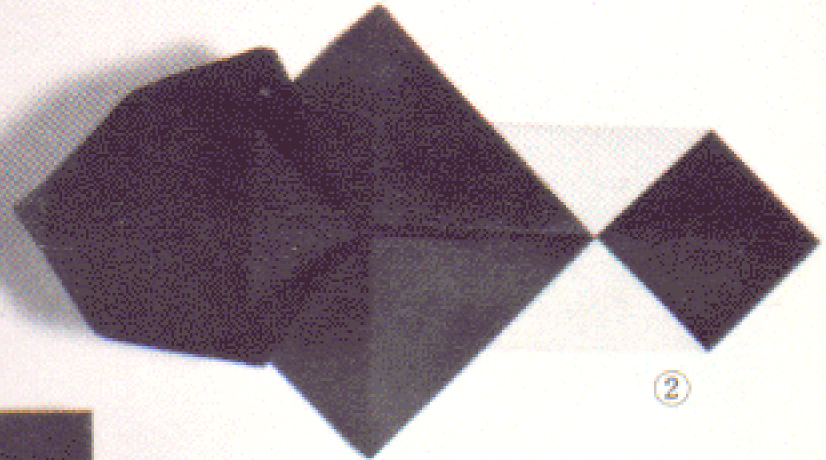
③

Hydrangea

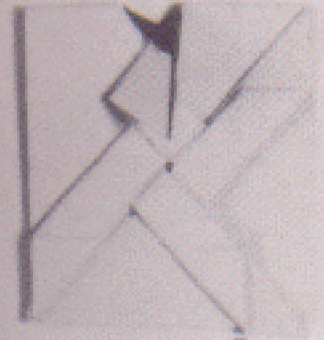
Hydrangea is an aggregate flower. Many flowers set together make one hydrangea. The folds are complicated from step ⑦, so study the illustrations closely.



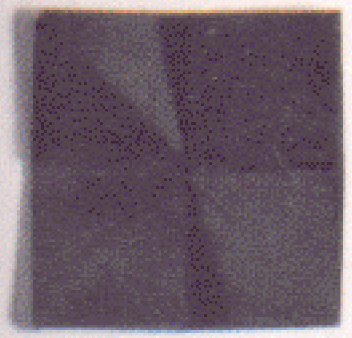
① Basic pony fold.



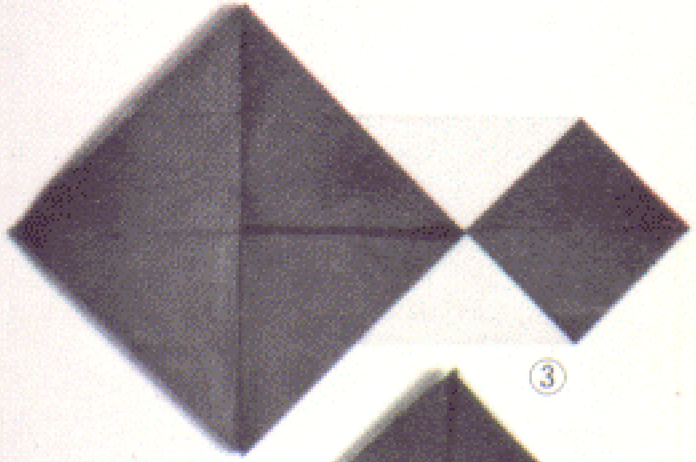
②



⑨



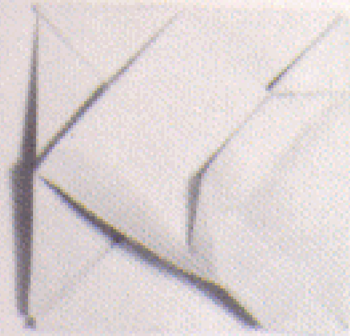
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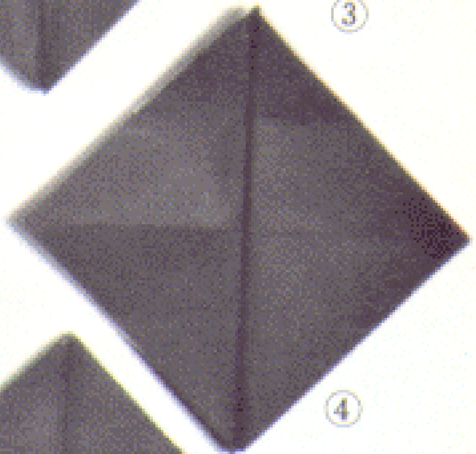
③



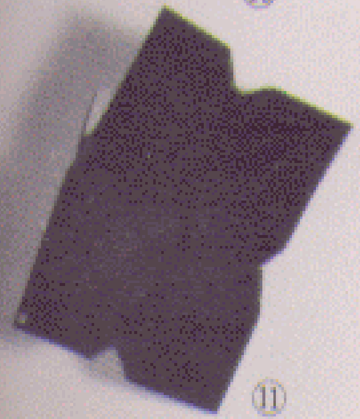
⑩



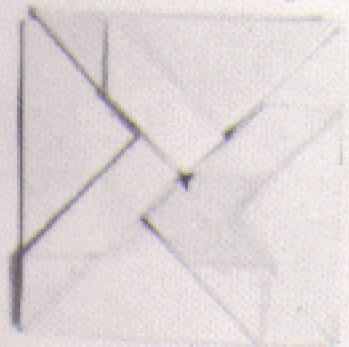
⑦ Turn over ⑥



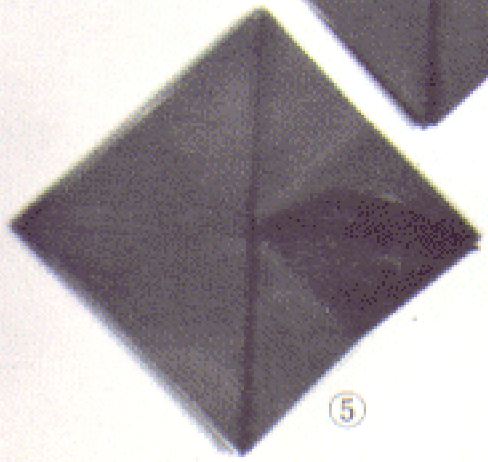
④



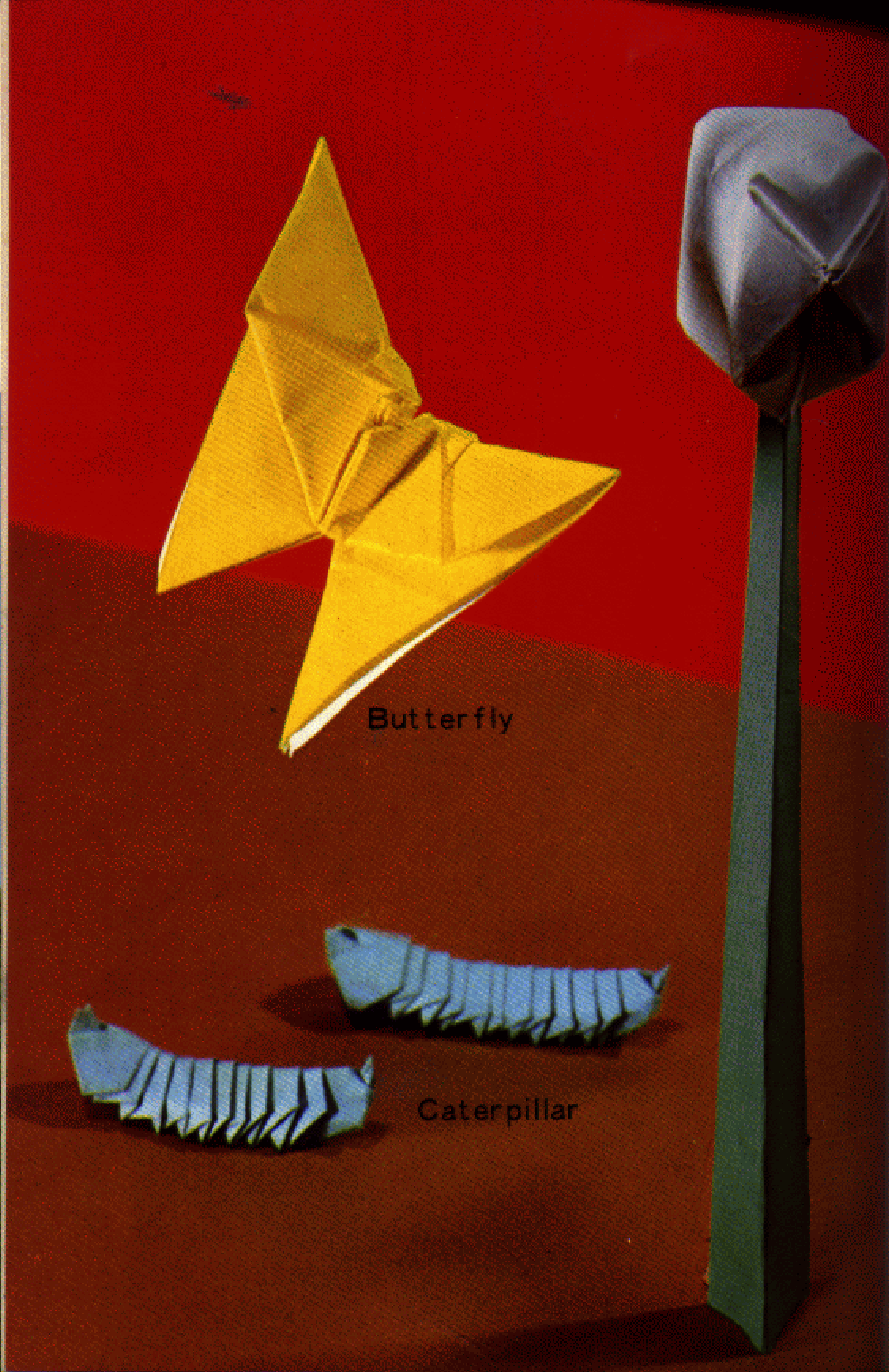
⑪

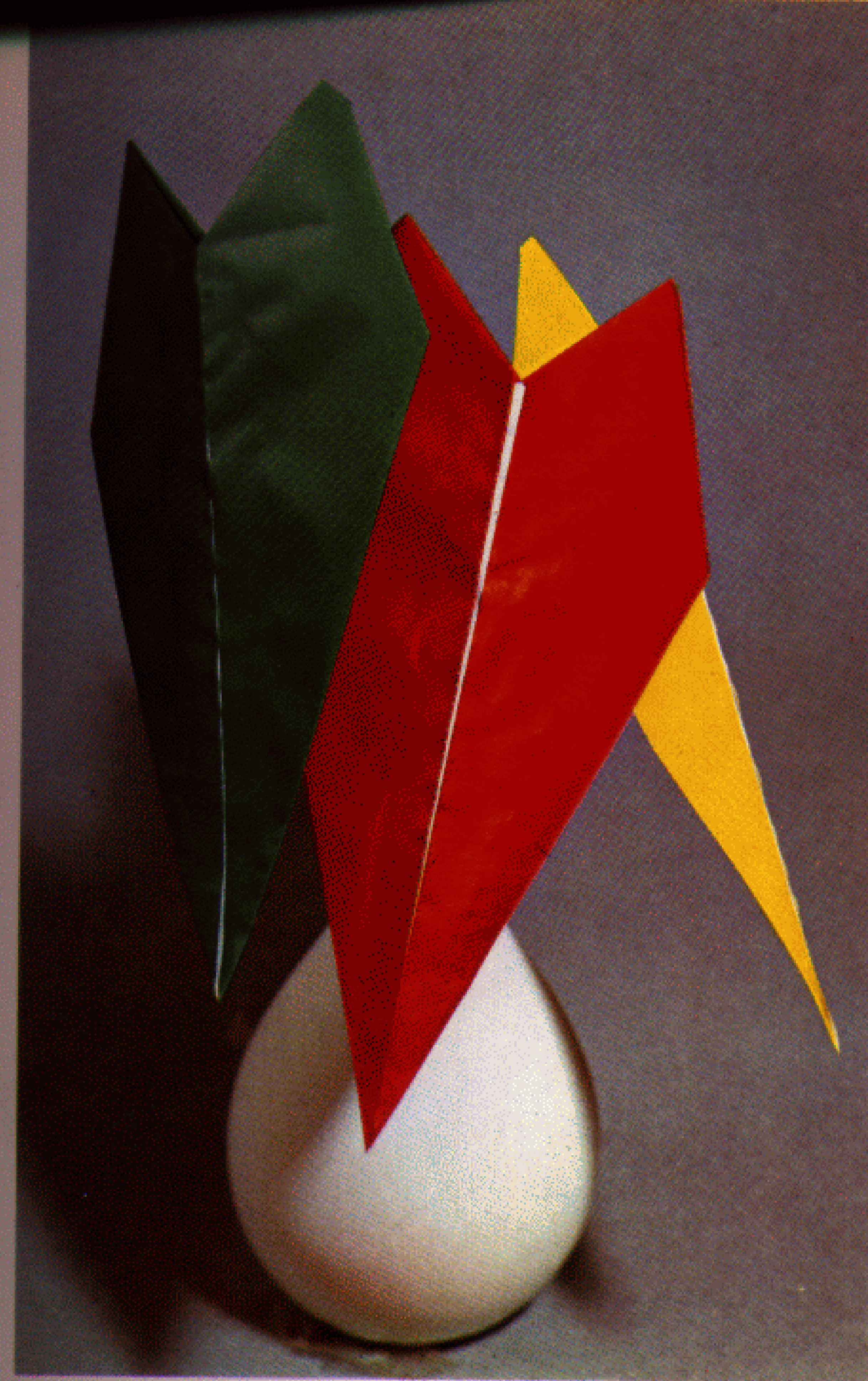


⑧



⑤



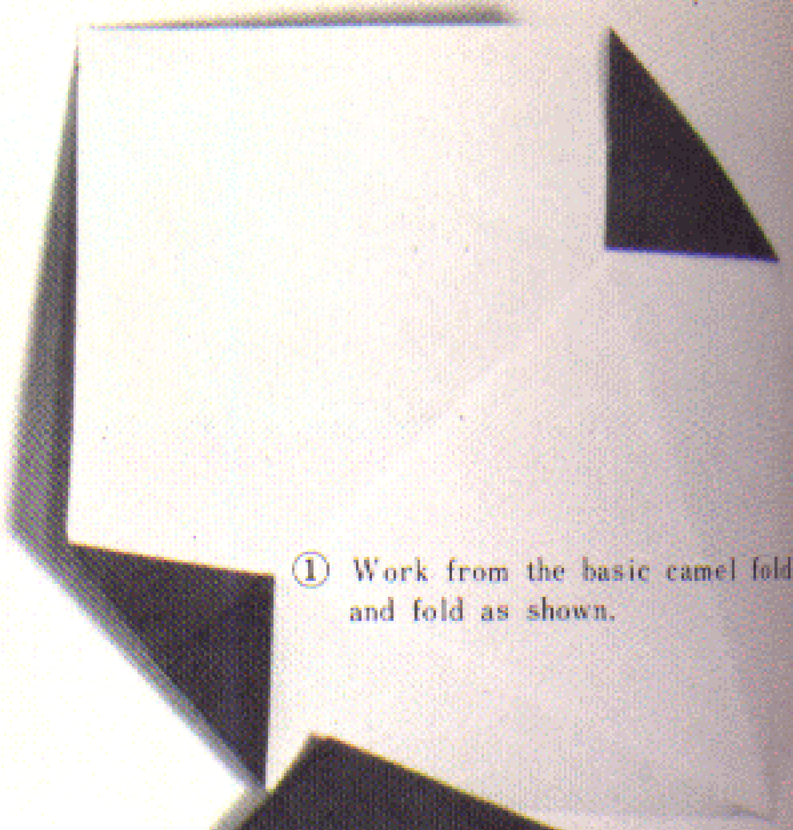


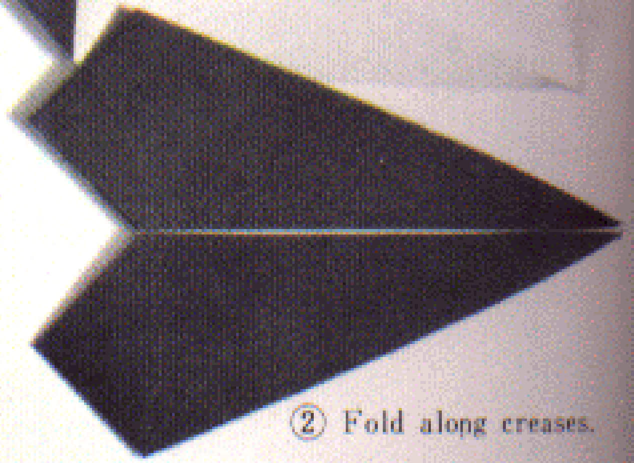
Foliage plant

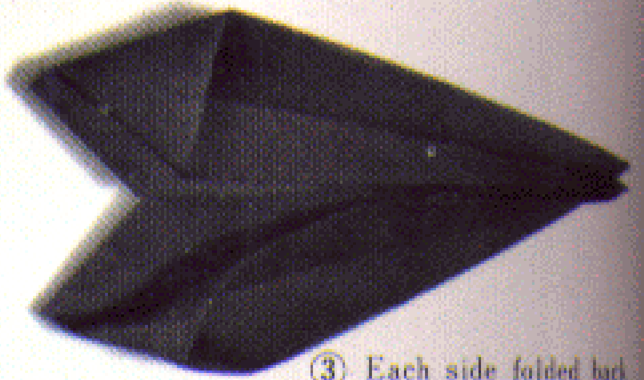
Use glossy paper.

Foliage plant


⑤

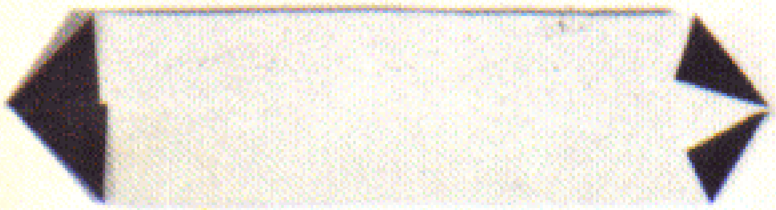

① Work from the basic camel fold, and fold as shown.

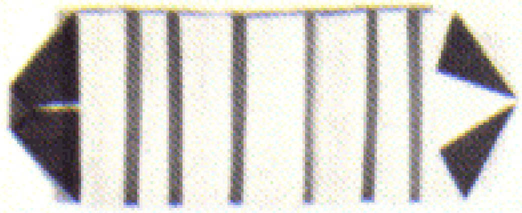

② Fold along creases.

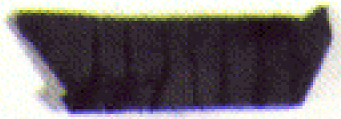

③ Each side folded back as shown.

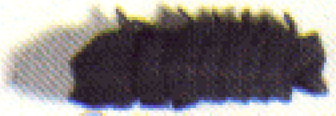

④

Caterpillar

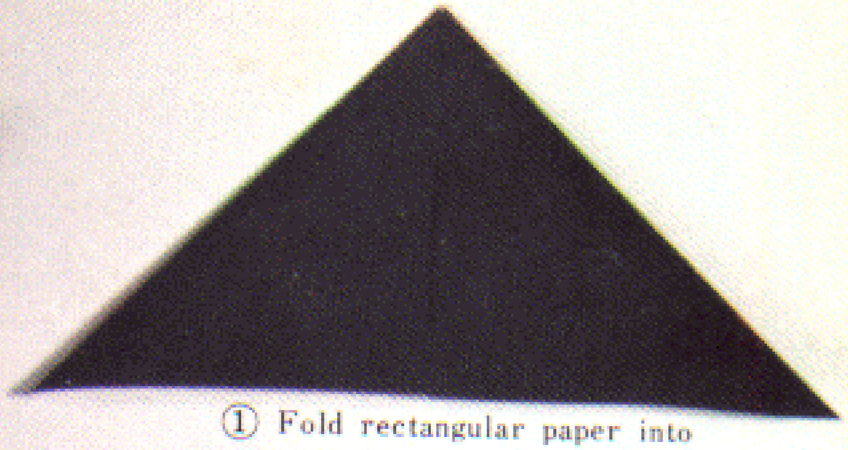

① Fold ends to form head and tail.

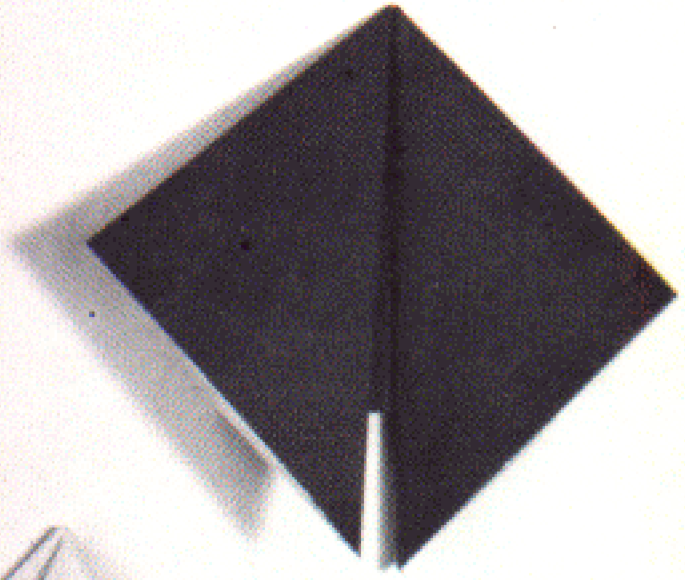

② Make pleats.

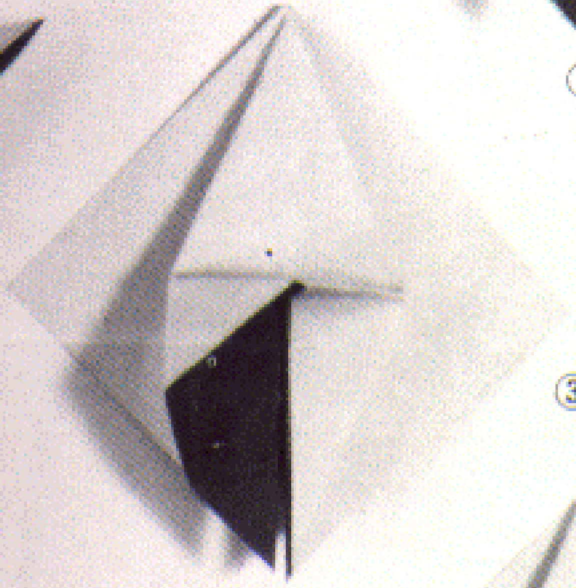

③ Fold tail in and up.

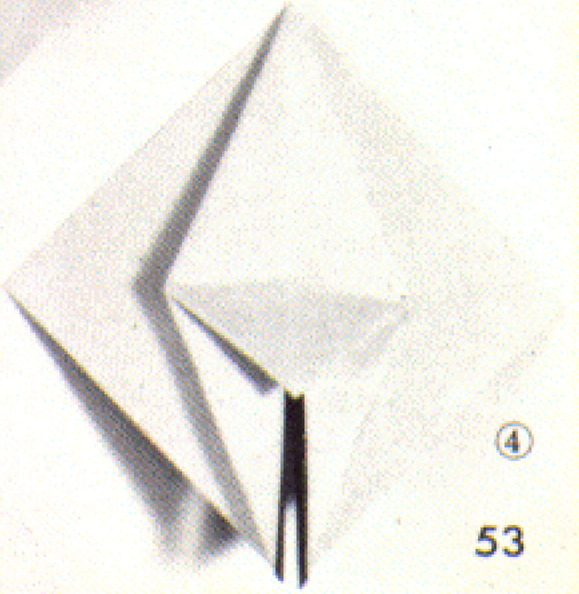

④ Each pleat folded back to make legs.

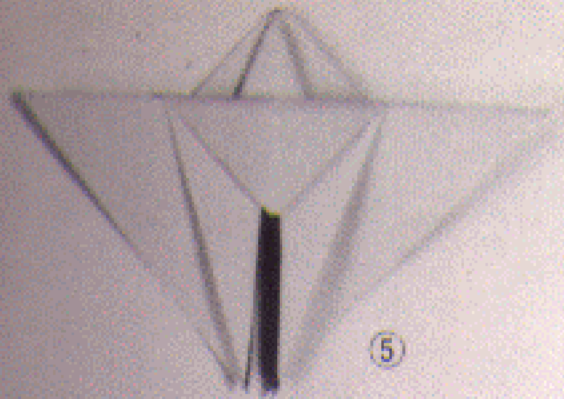
Butterfly


① Fold rectangular paper into triangle form.


② Turn over ①


③ Turn over ②

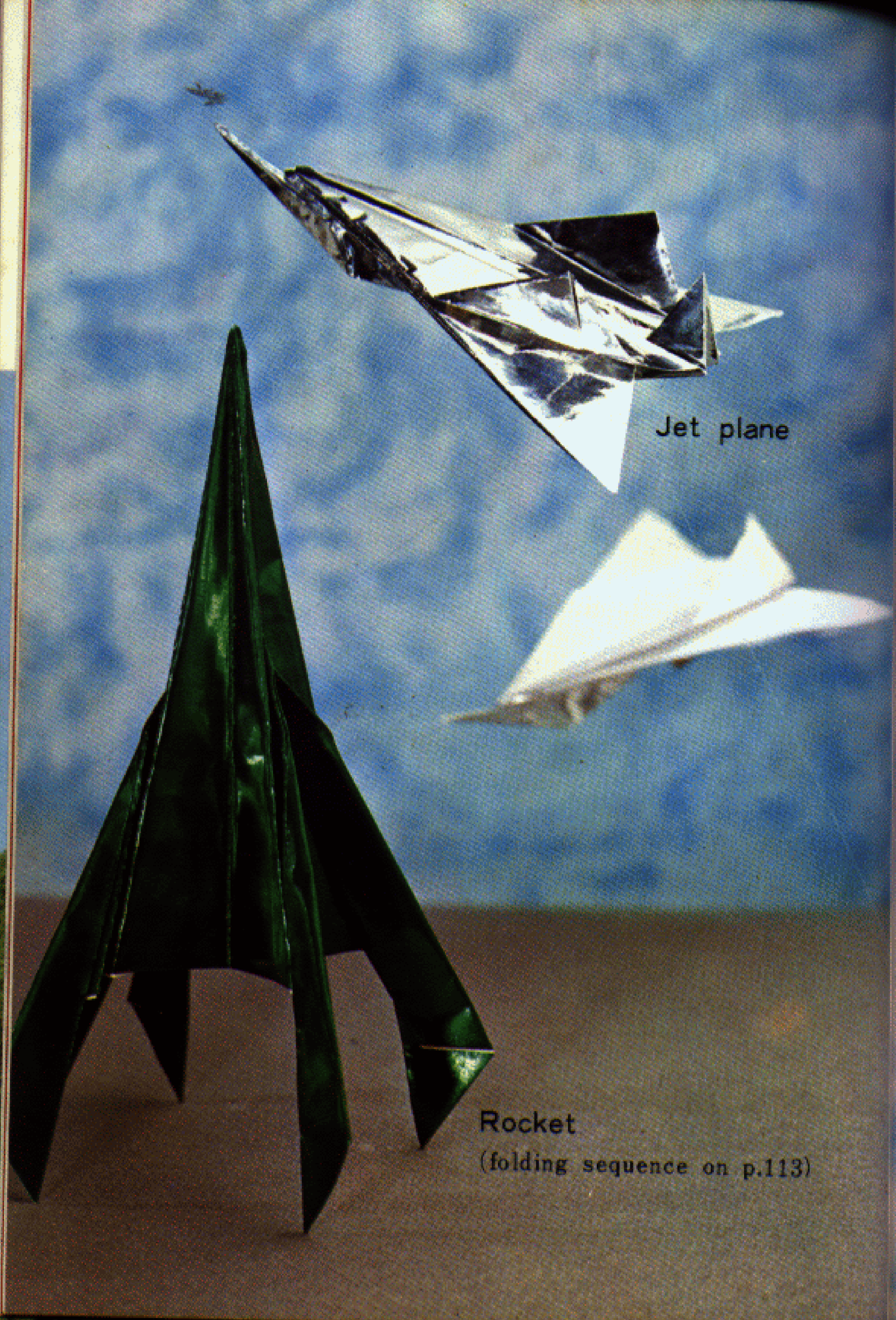

④


⑤


⑥

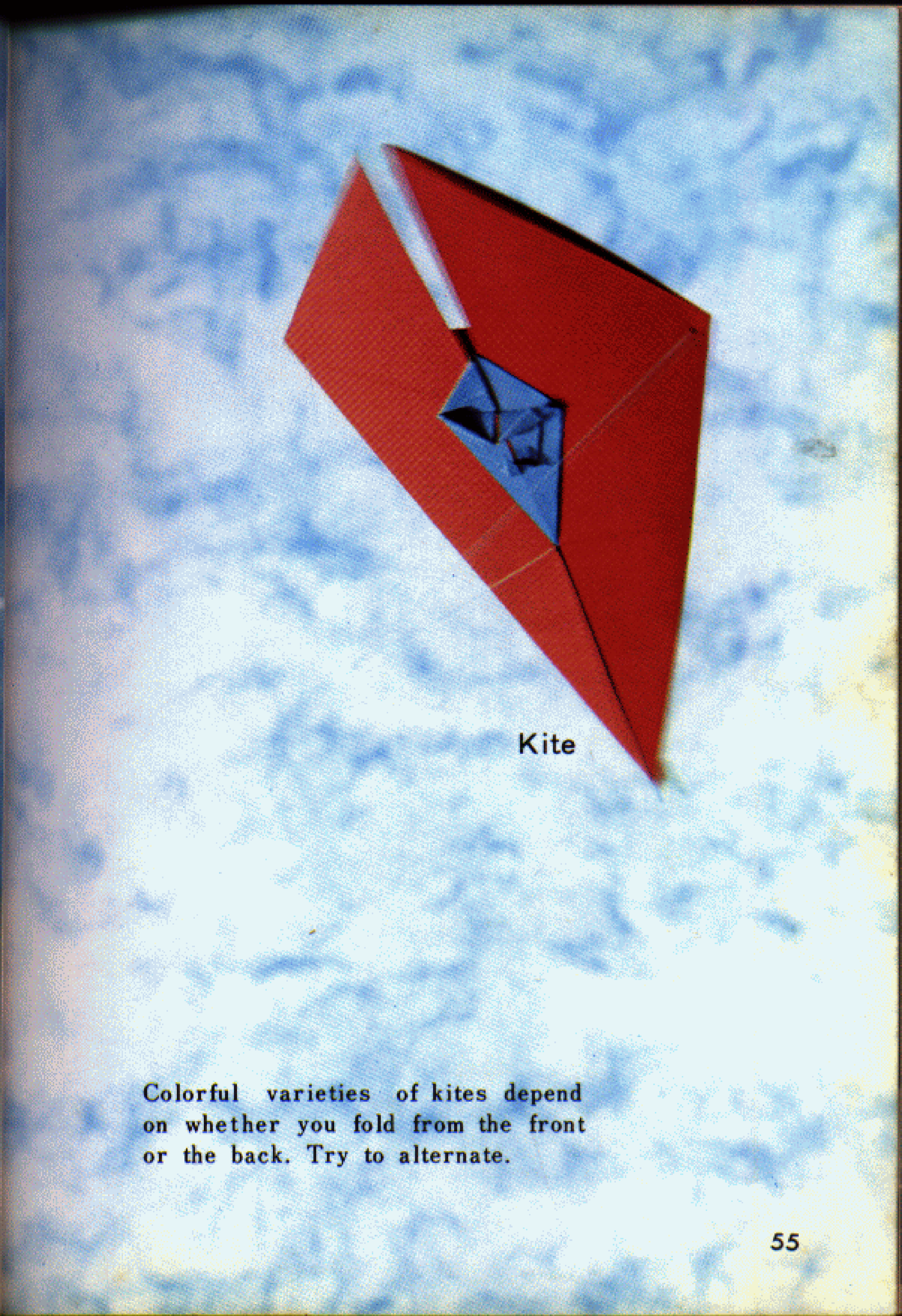

⑦ Turn over ⑥

Butterflies can be made very beautiful by carefully selecting colors. Try on your own to fold various butterflies.



Jet plane

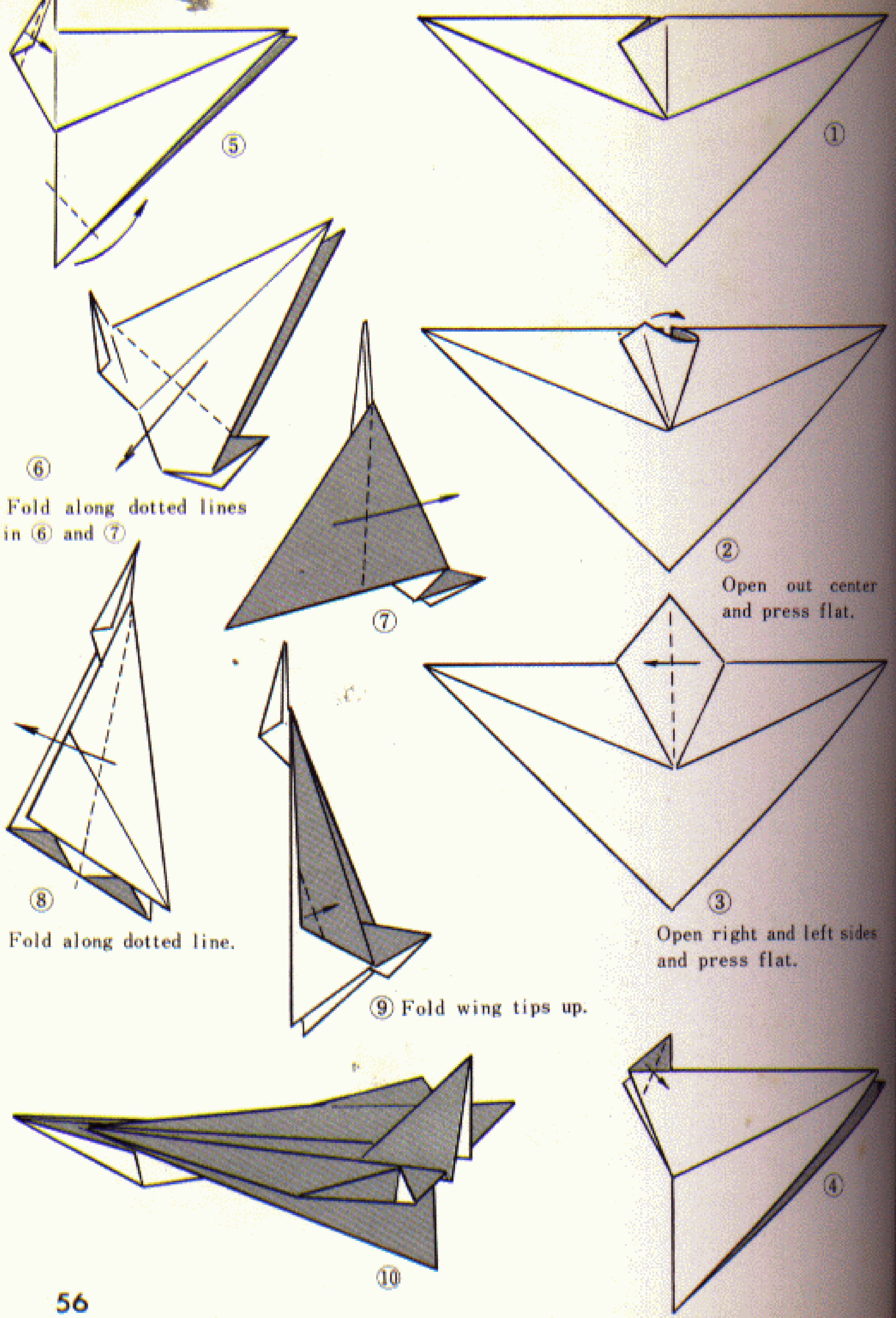
Rocket
(folding sequence on p.113)



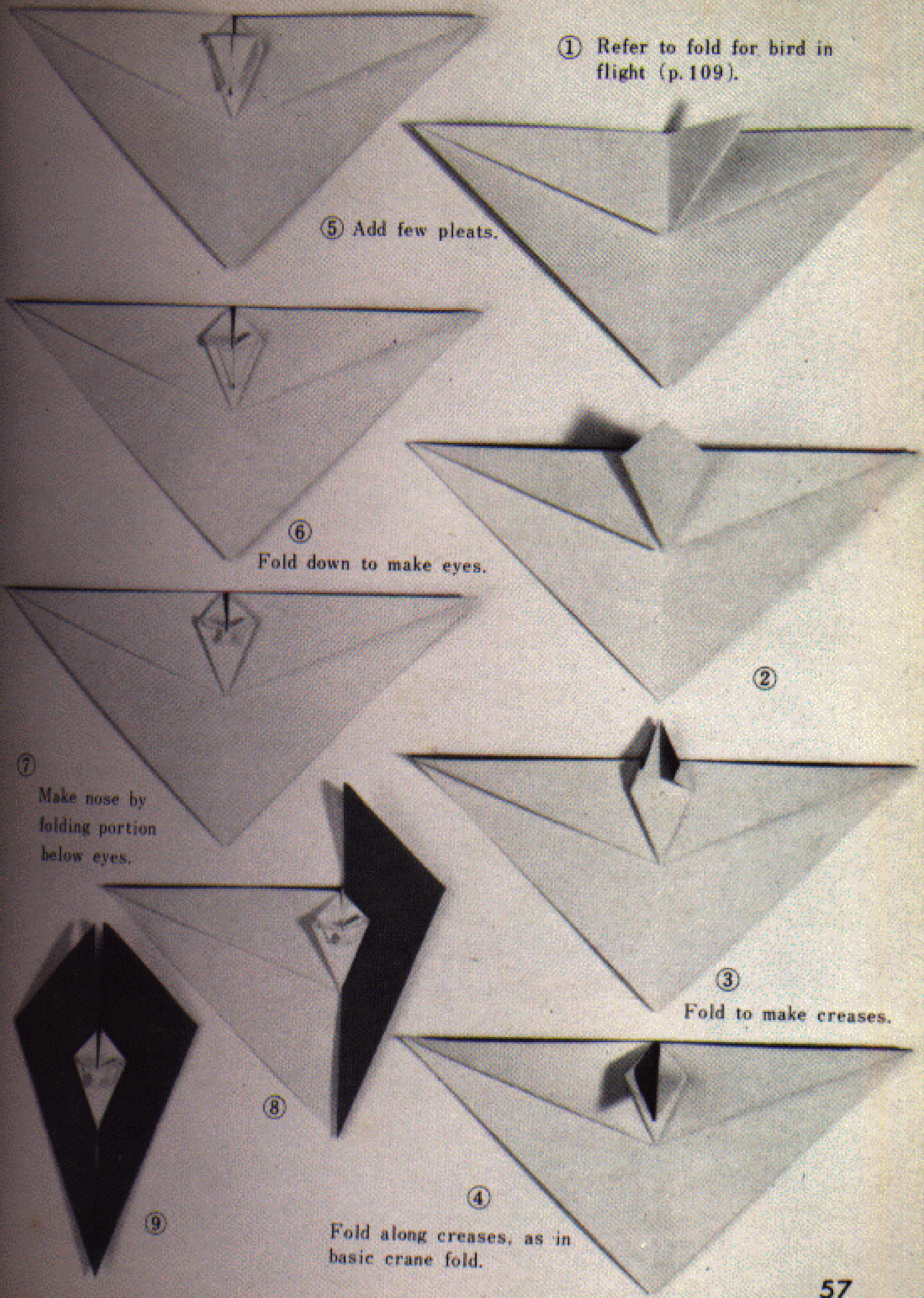
Kite

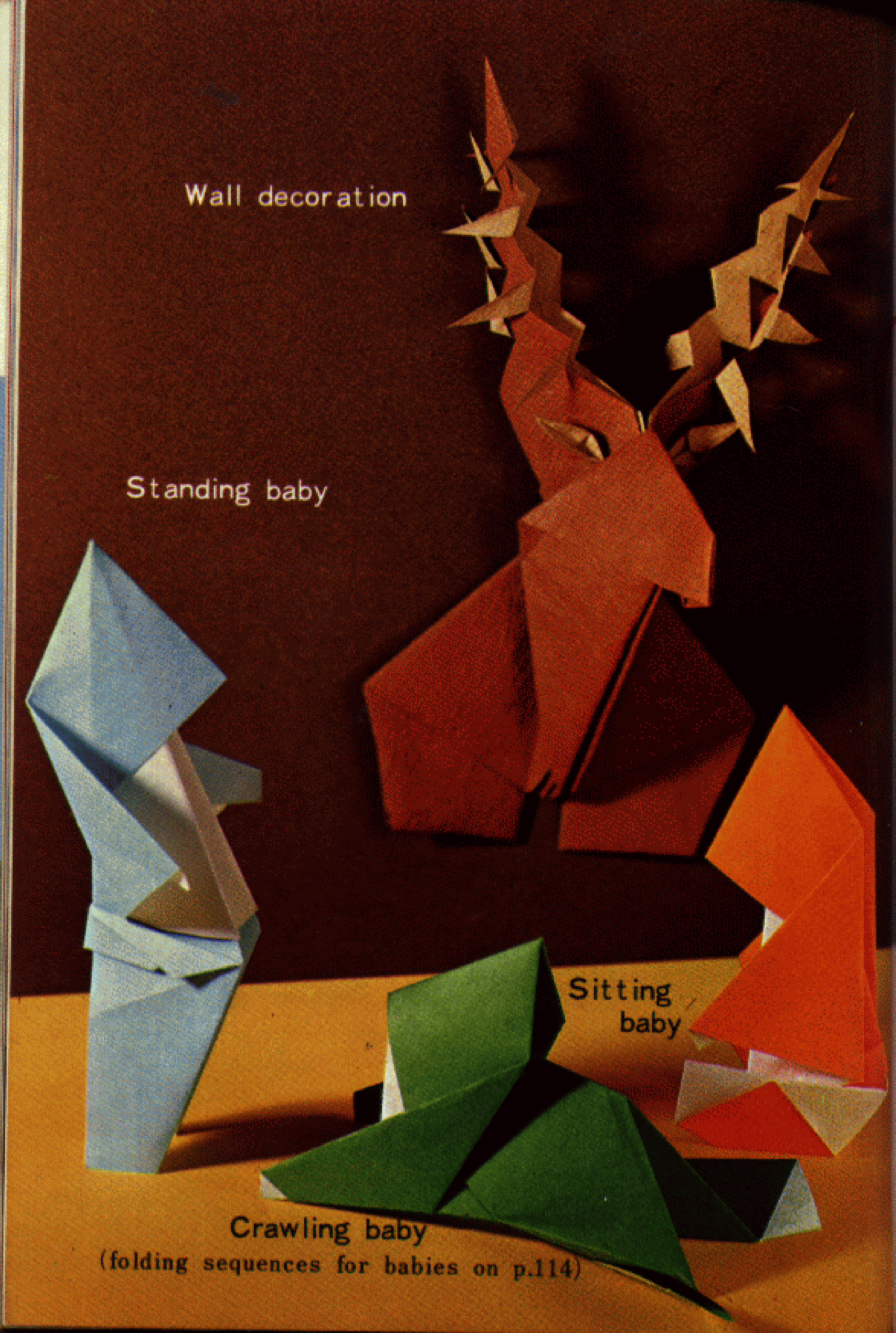
Colorful varieties of kites depend on whether you fold from the front or the back. Try to alternate.

Jet plane



Kite





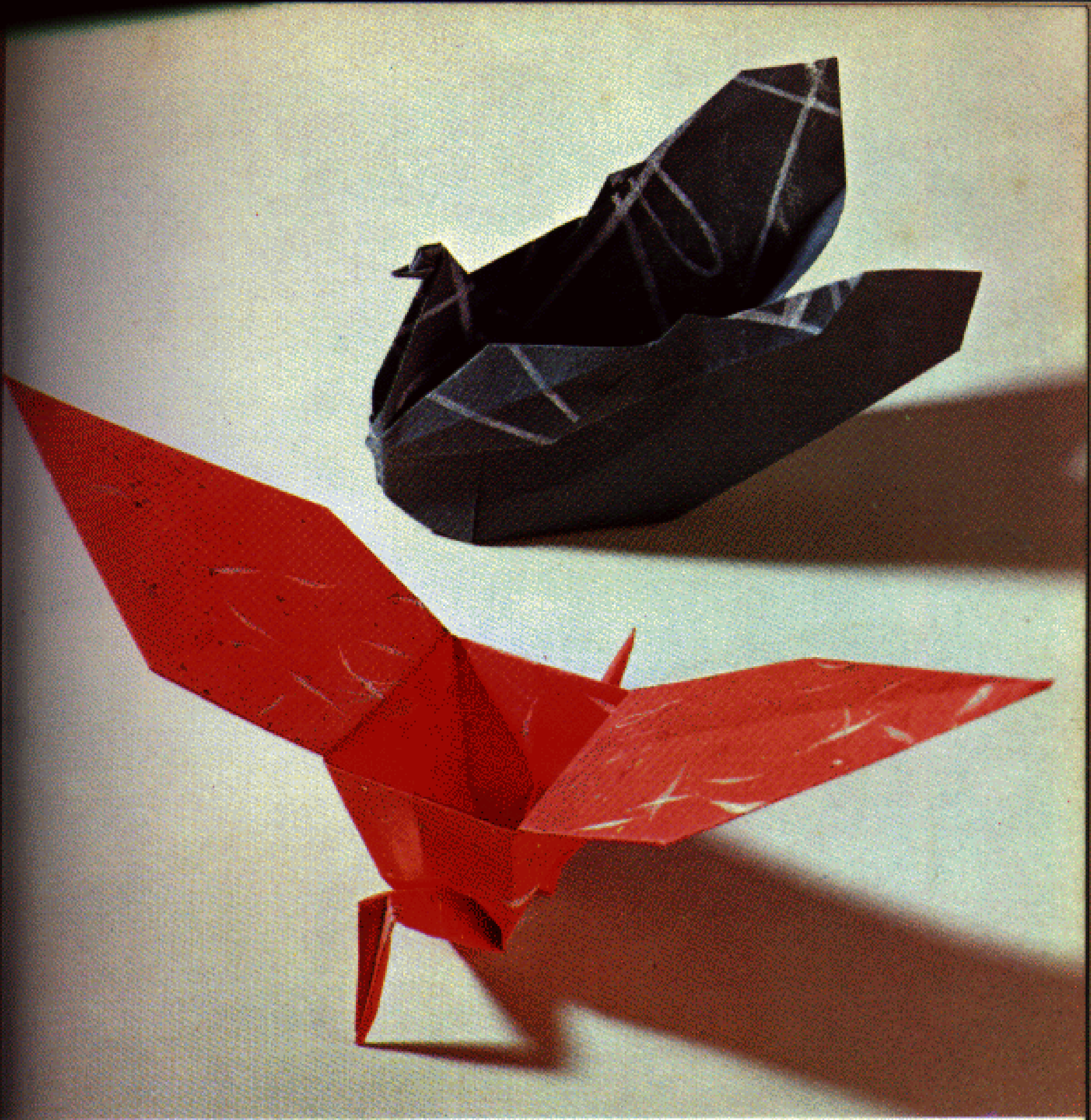
Wall decoration

Standing baby

Sitting baby

Crawling baby

(folding sequences for babies on p.114)



Crane-shaped receptacle

(folding sequence on p.112)

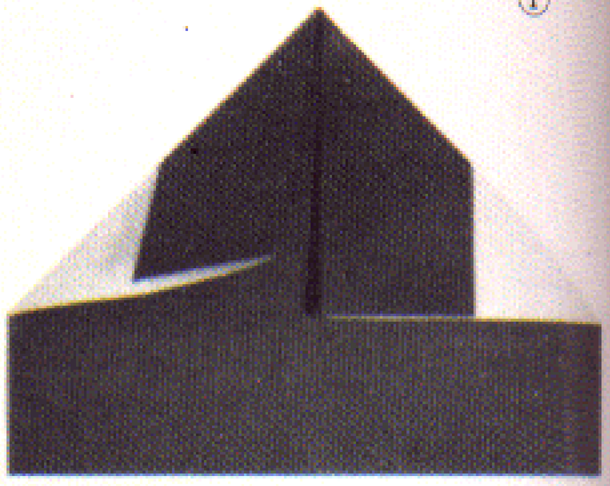
Pigeon-shaped receptacle

I used folkcraft paper to make these. The paper may be purchased at department stores and folk-art shops.

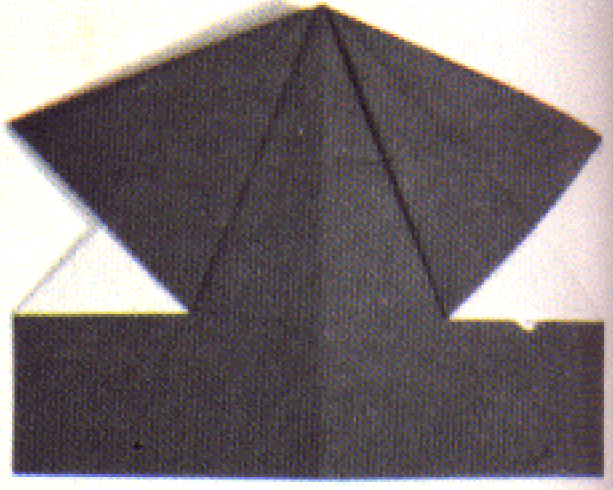
Crawling baby



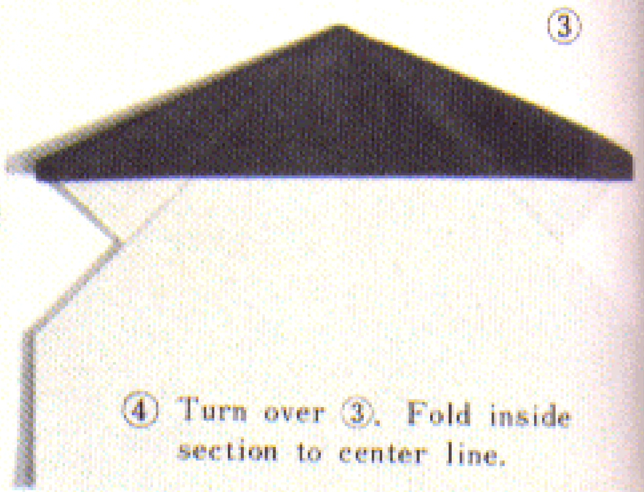
①



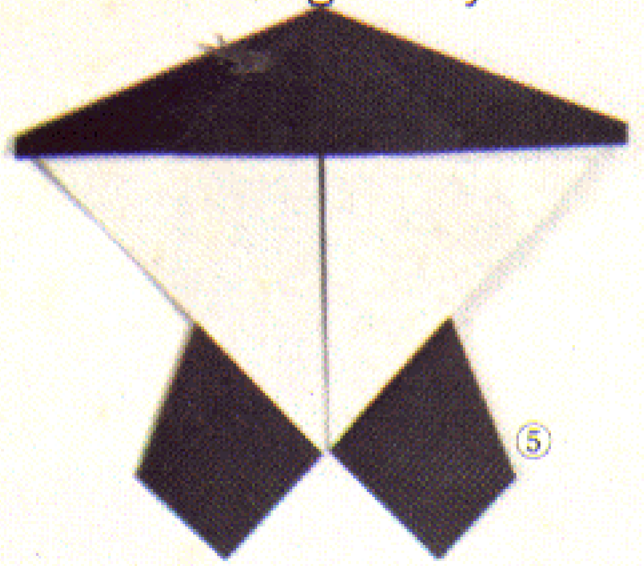
② Open and align on center line.



③



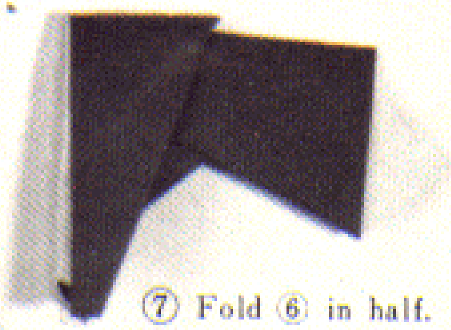
④ Turn over ③. Fold inside section to center line.



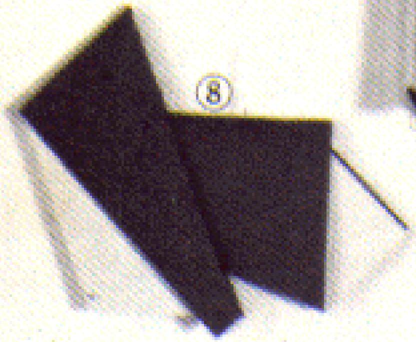
⑤



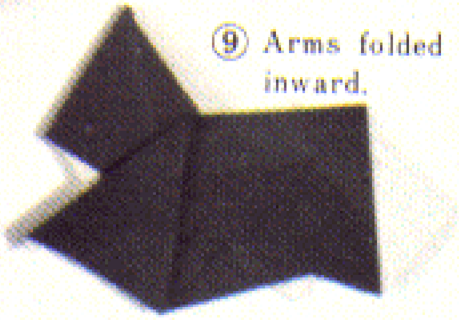
⑥ Turn over ⑤



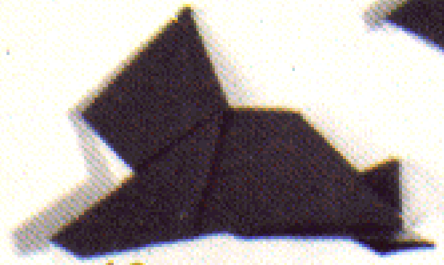
⑦ Fold ⑥ in half. Pull bottom left side to make head.



⑧

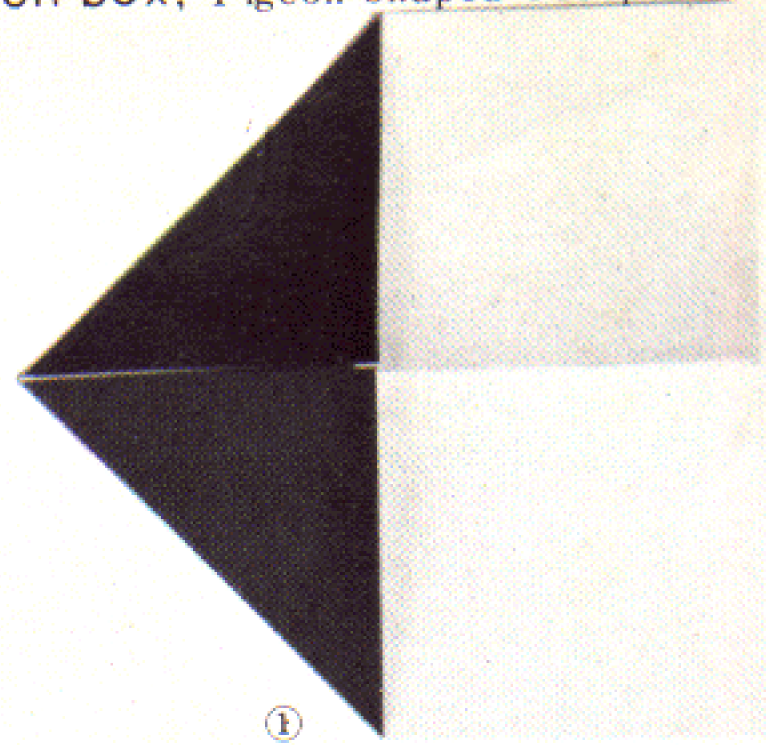


⑨ Arms folded inward.

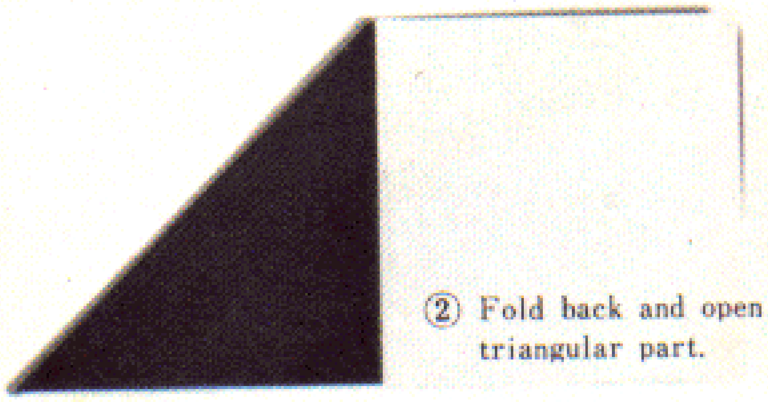


⑩ Legs folded outward.

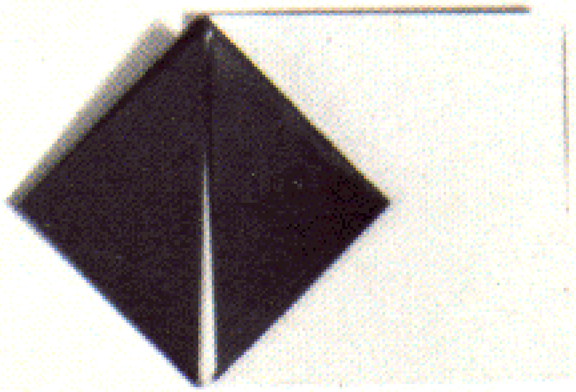
Pigeon box, Pigeon-shaped receptacle



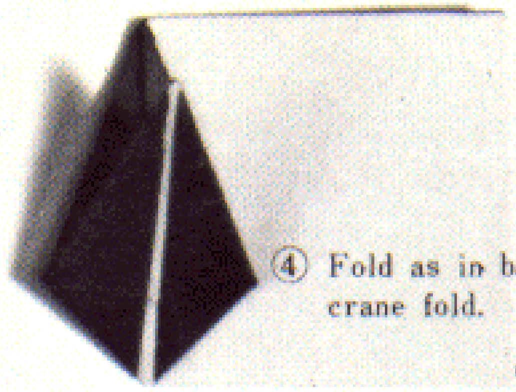
①



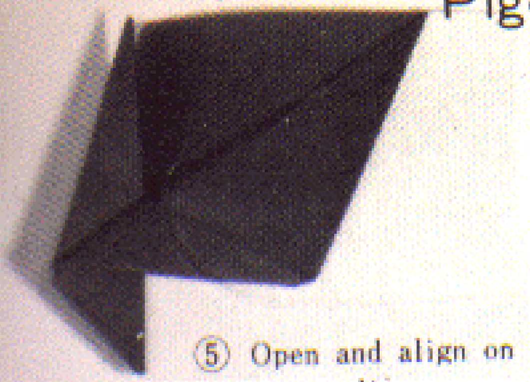
② Fold back and open triangular part.



③



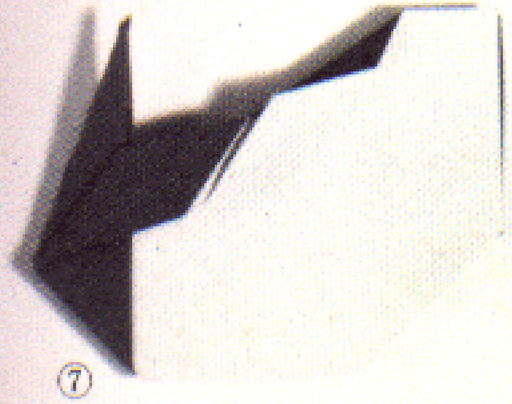
④ Fold as in basic crane fold.



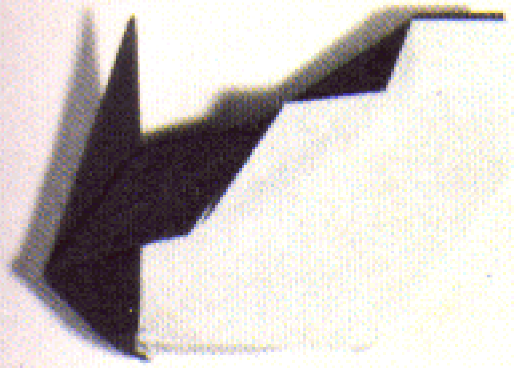
⑤ Open and align on center line.



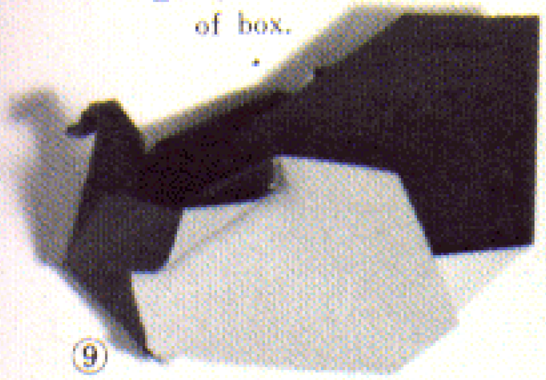
⑥



⑦



⑧ Open to make bottom of box.



⑨



Hanging ornaments

(folding sequence on p.117)

The camellia provides the basic fold for the ornamental ball. If you intend to use this as a lampshade do not use flammable material.

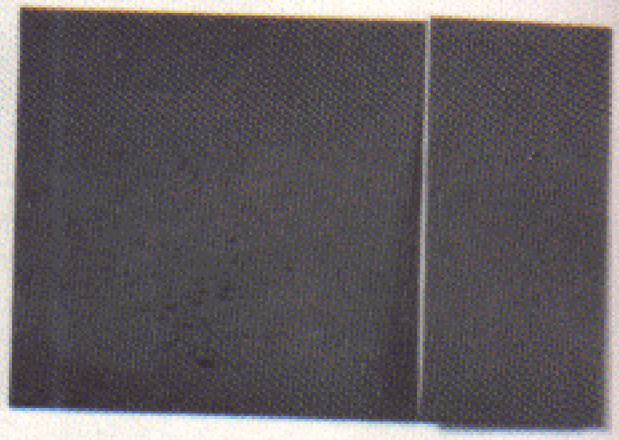
Use paper with colorful patterns or wrapping paper.



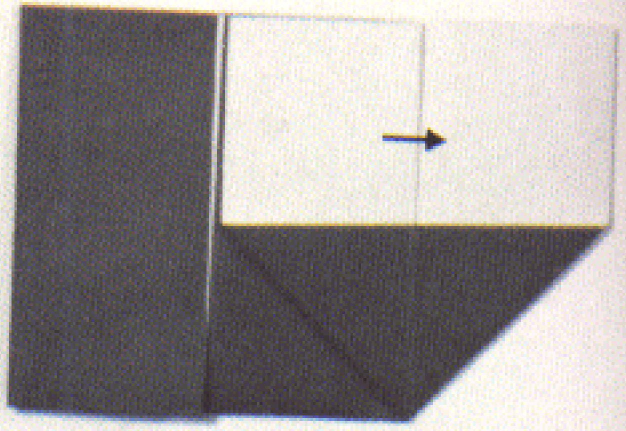
Card case



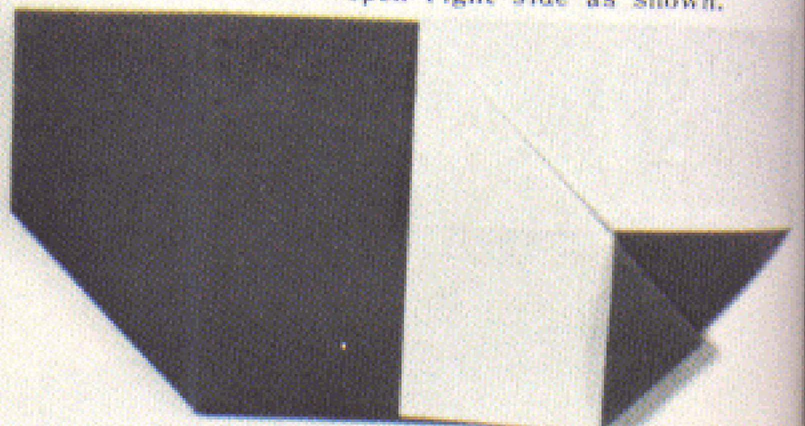
① Fold in half.



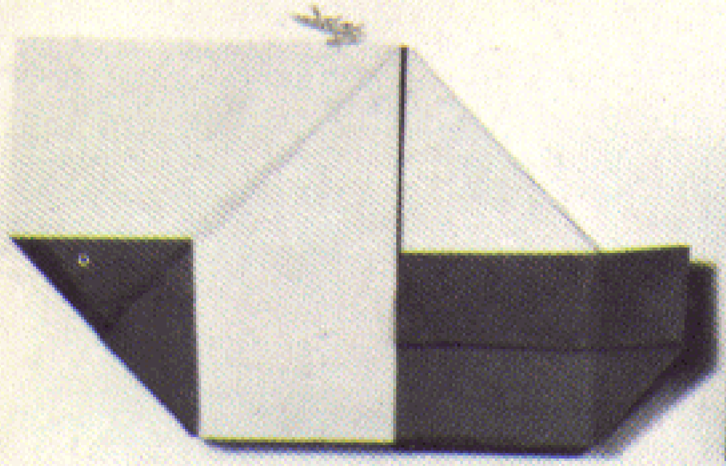
② Fold right side to center.



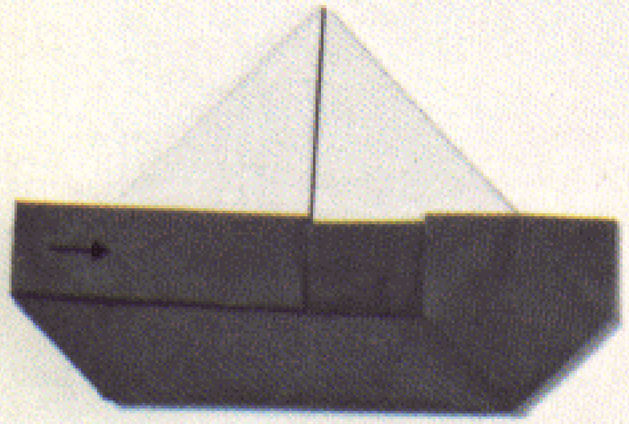
③ Fold left side to center and open right side as shown.



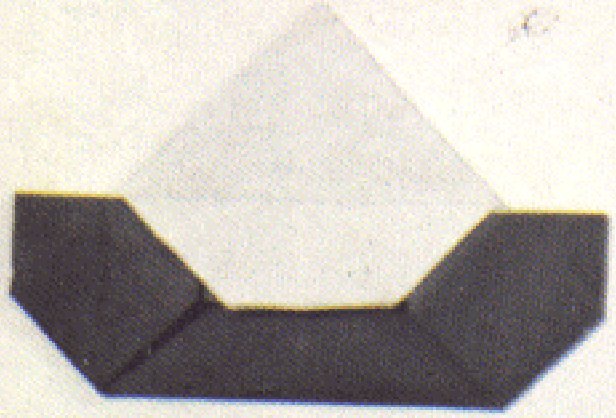
④ Fold top of right side to center line as shown. Open small triangle.



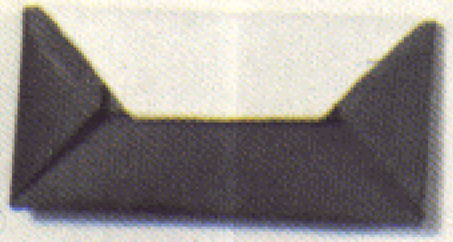
⑤



⑥ Fold back.



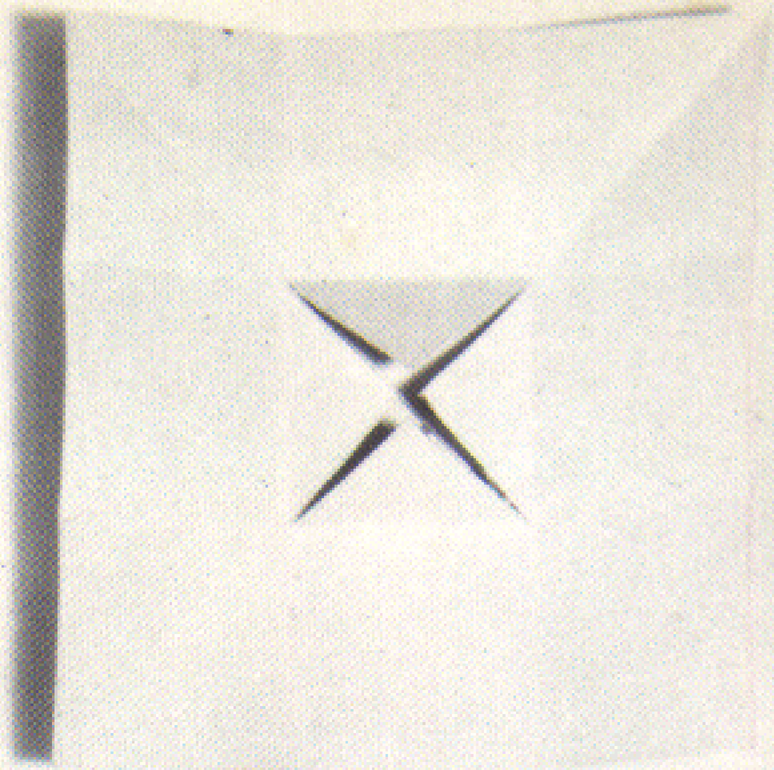
⑦ Fold top layer triangle down and tuck inside.



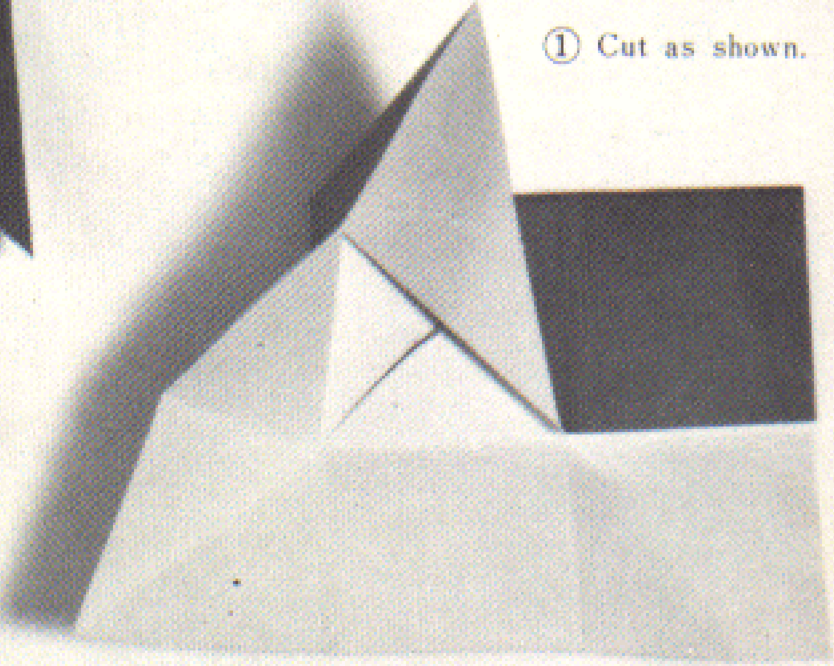
⑧

Mat

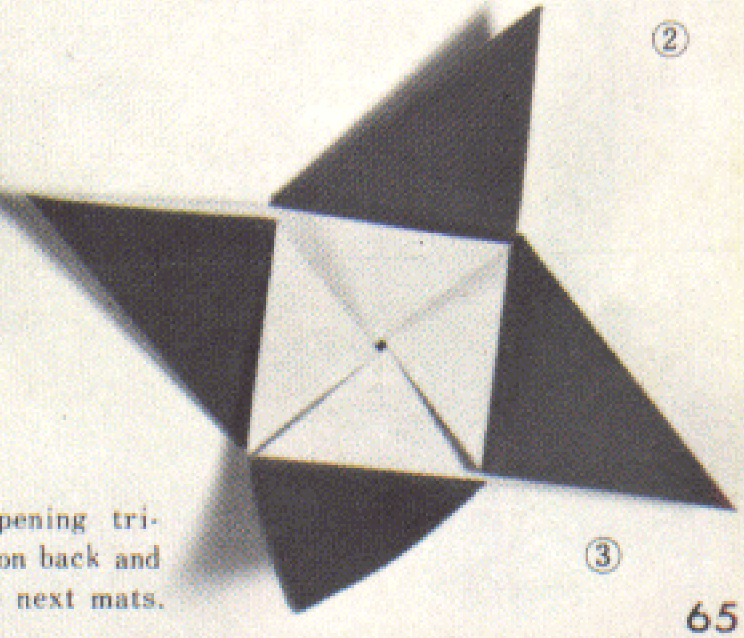
Make numerous mats and join them together to form various shapes.



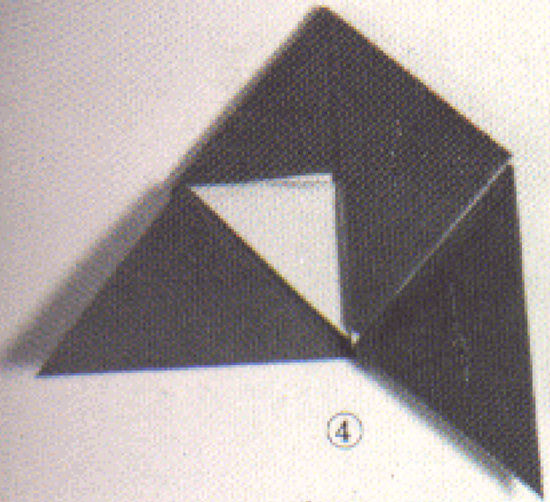
① Cut as shown.



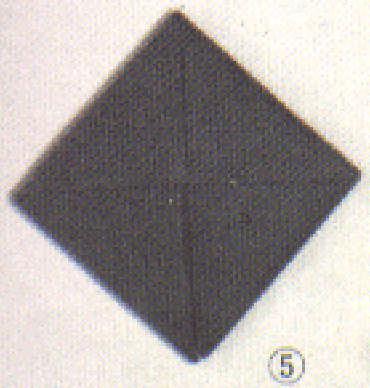
②



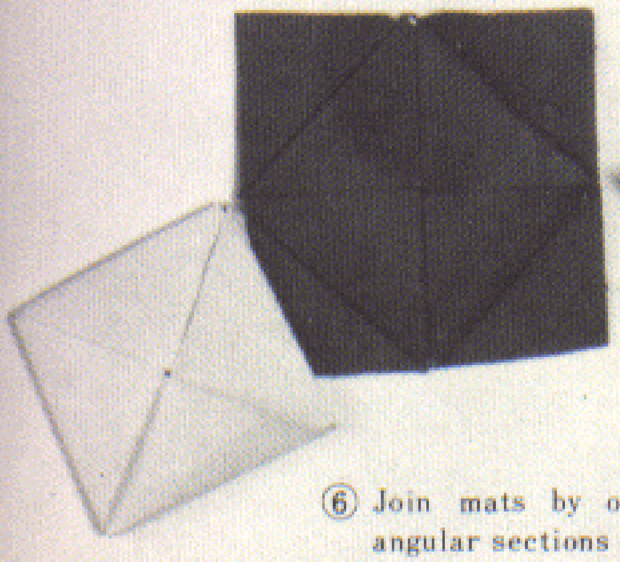
③



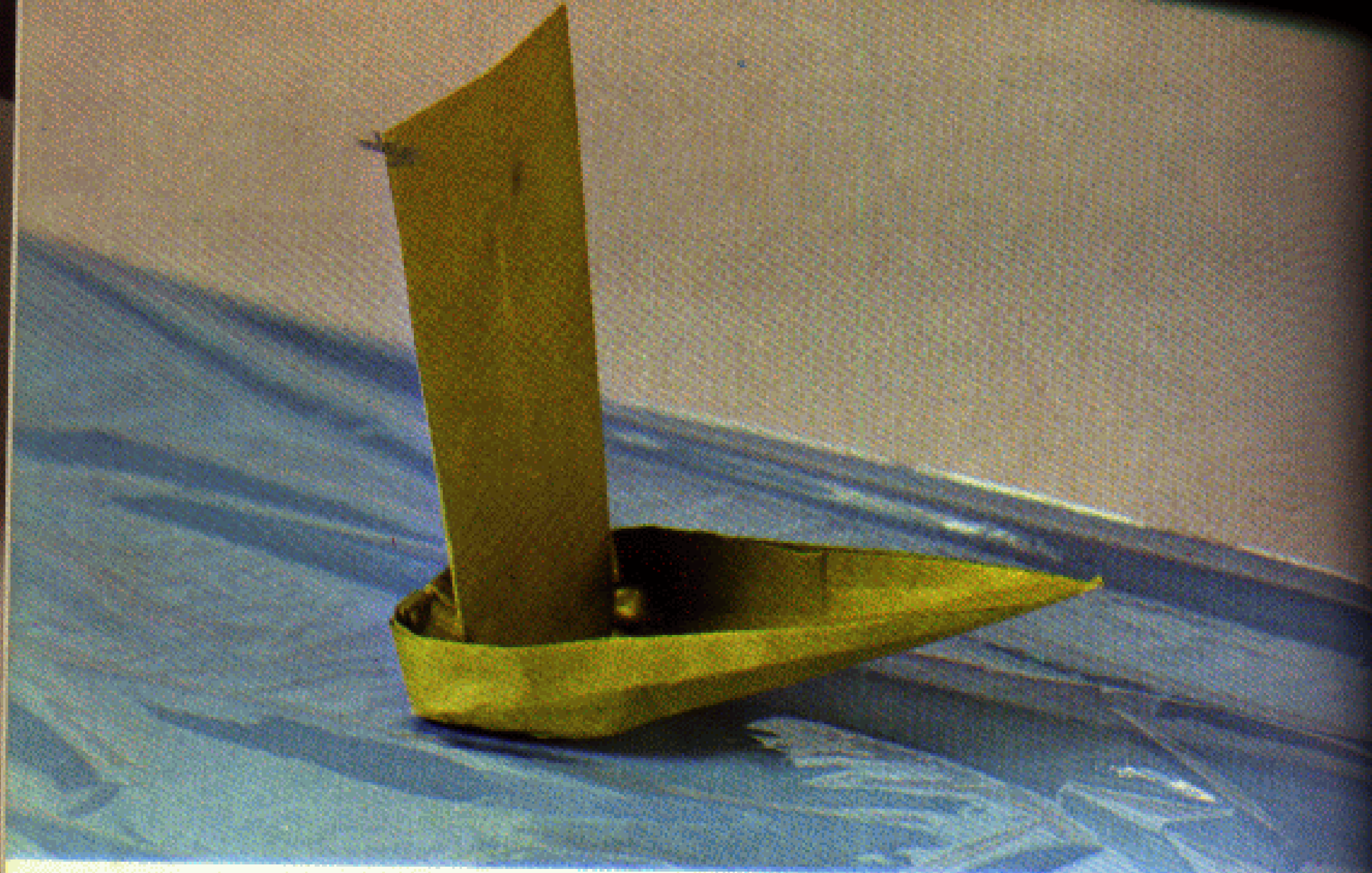
④



⑤

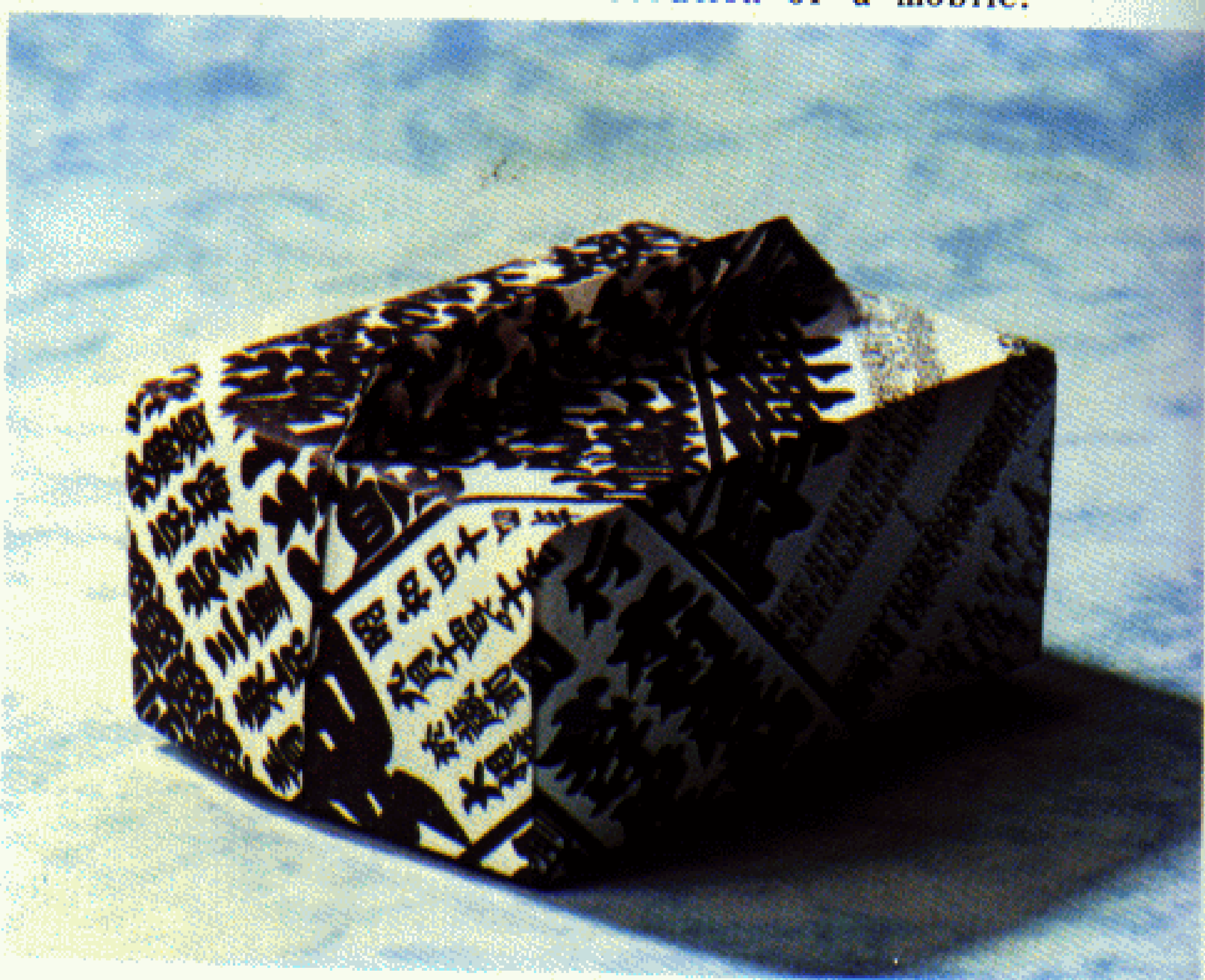


⑥ Join mats by opening triangular sections on back and sliding them into next mats.



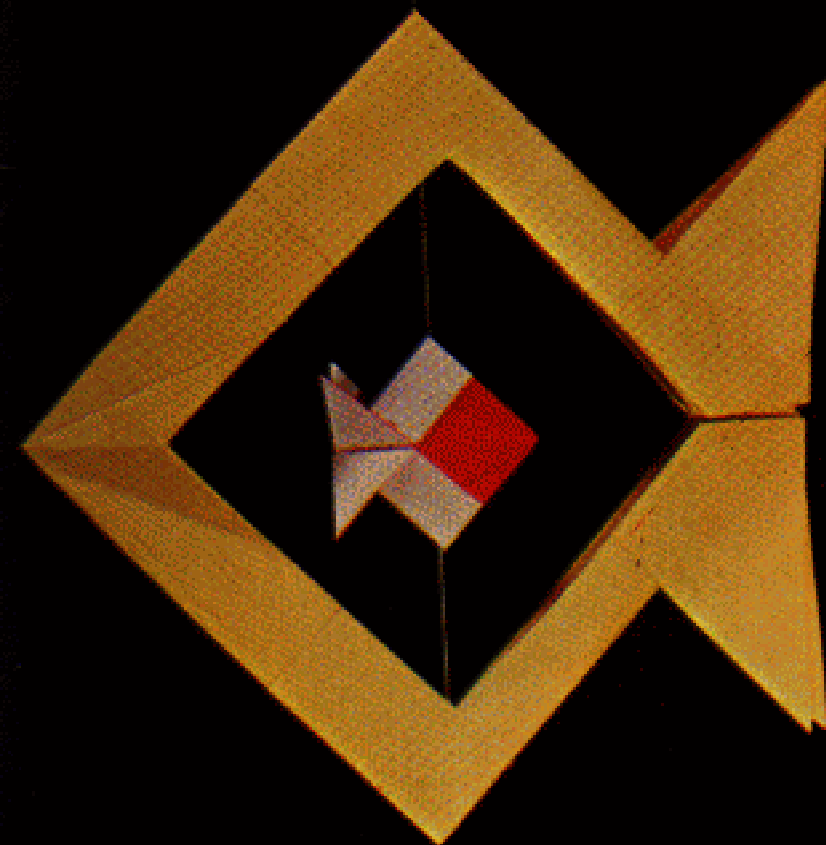
Bamboo boat

The bamboo boat can be a simple decoration or a mobile.

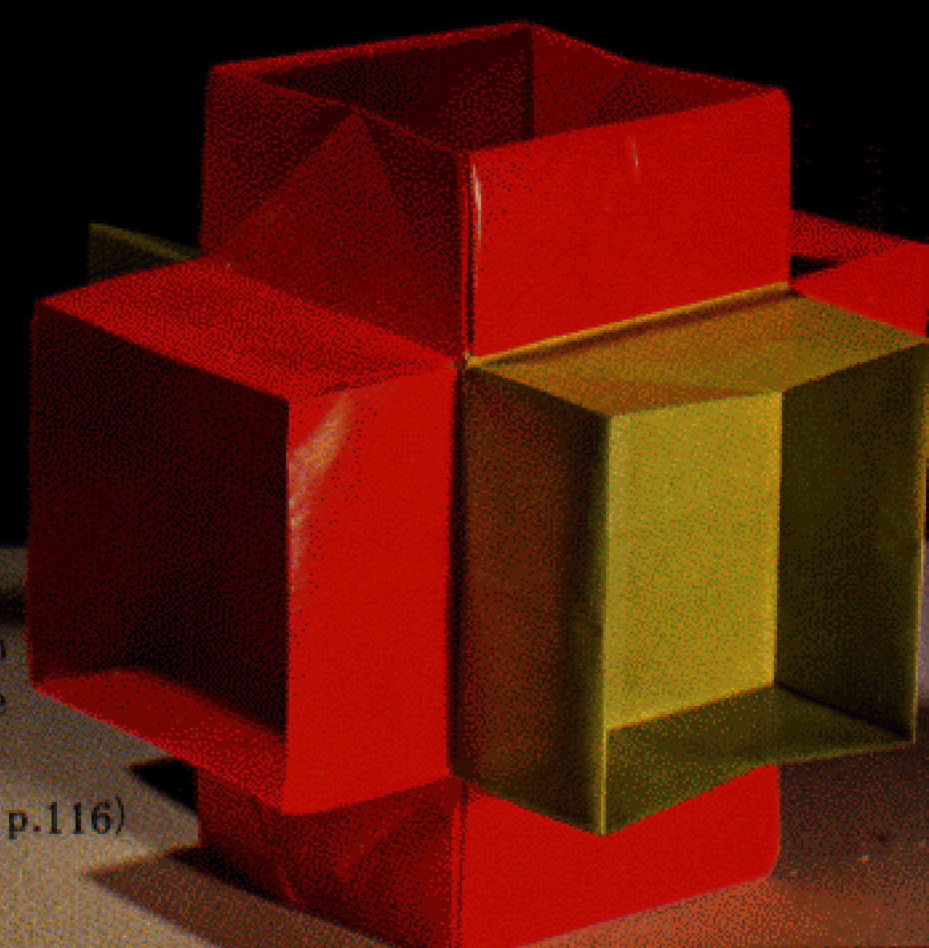


Small box

Goldfish mobile

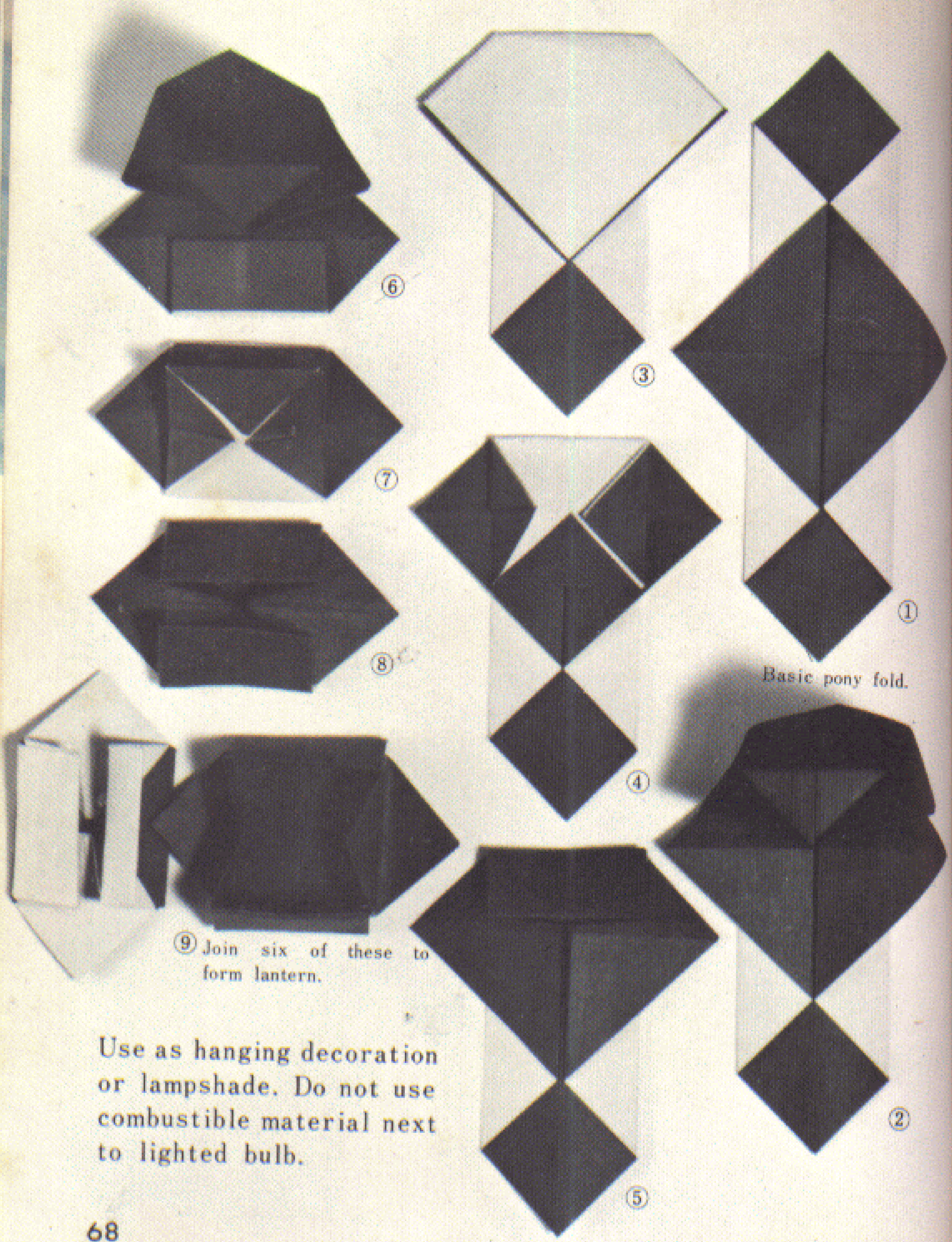


Lantern



The small goldfish can be made using the cut-out section.
(folding sequence on p.116)

Lantern



① Basic pony fold.

②

③

④

⑤

⑥

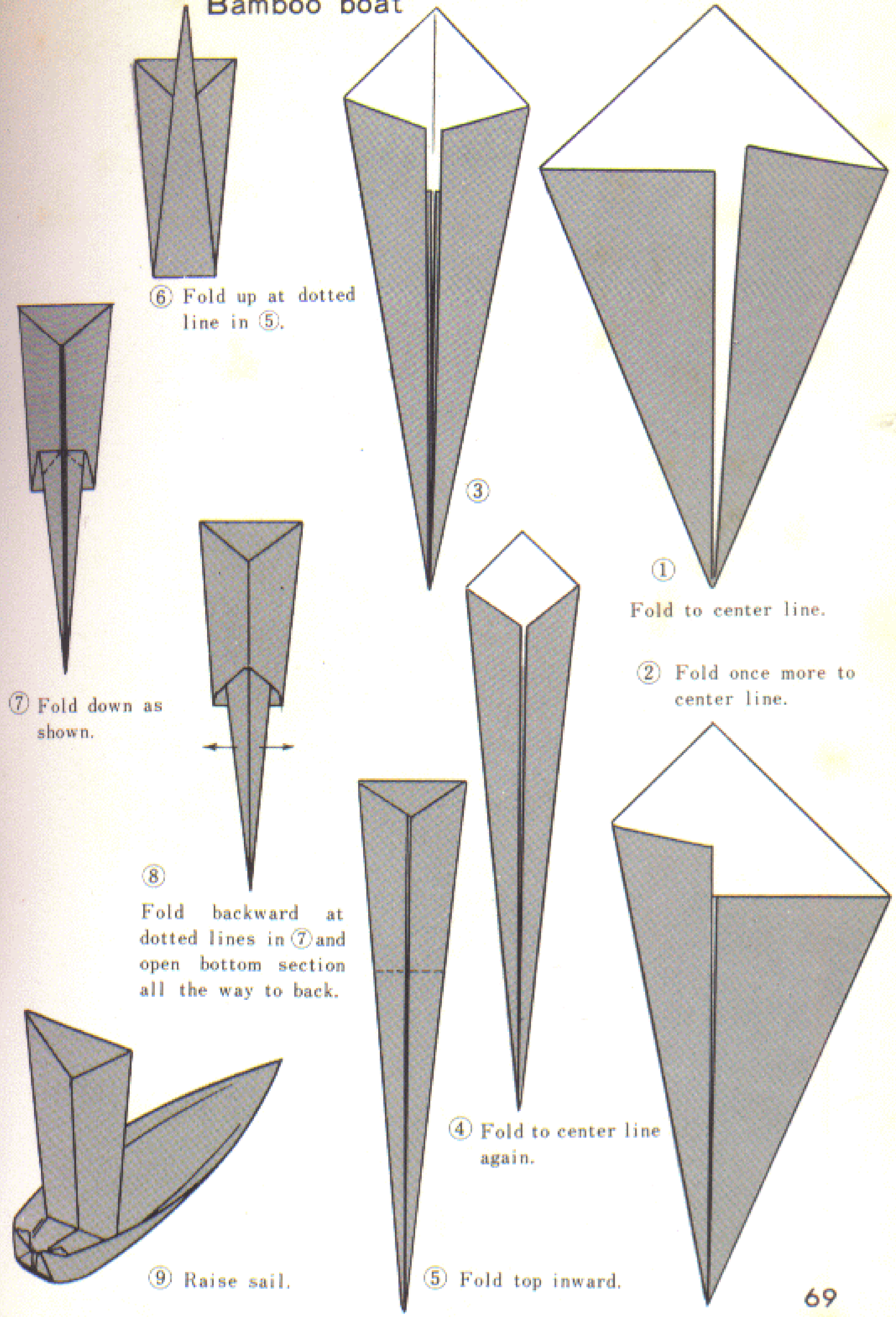
⑦

⑧

⑨ Join six of these to form lantern.

Use as hanging decoration or lampshade. Do not use combustible material next to lighted bulb.

Bamboo boat



① Fold to center line.

② Fold once more to center line.

③

④ Fold to center line again.

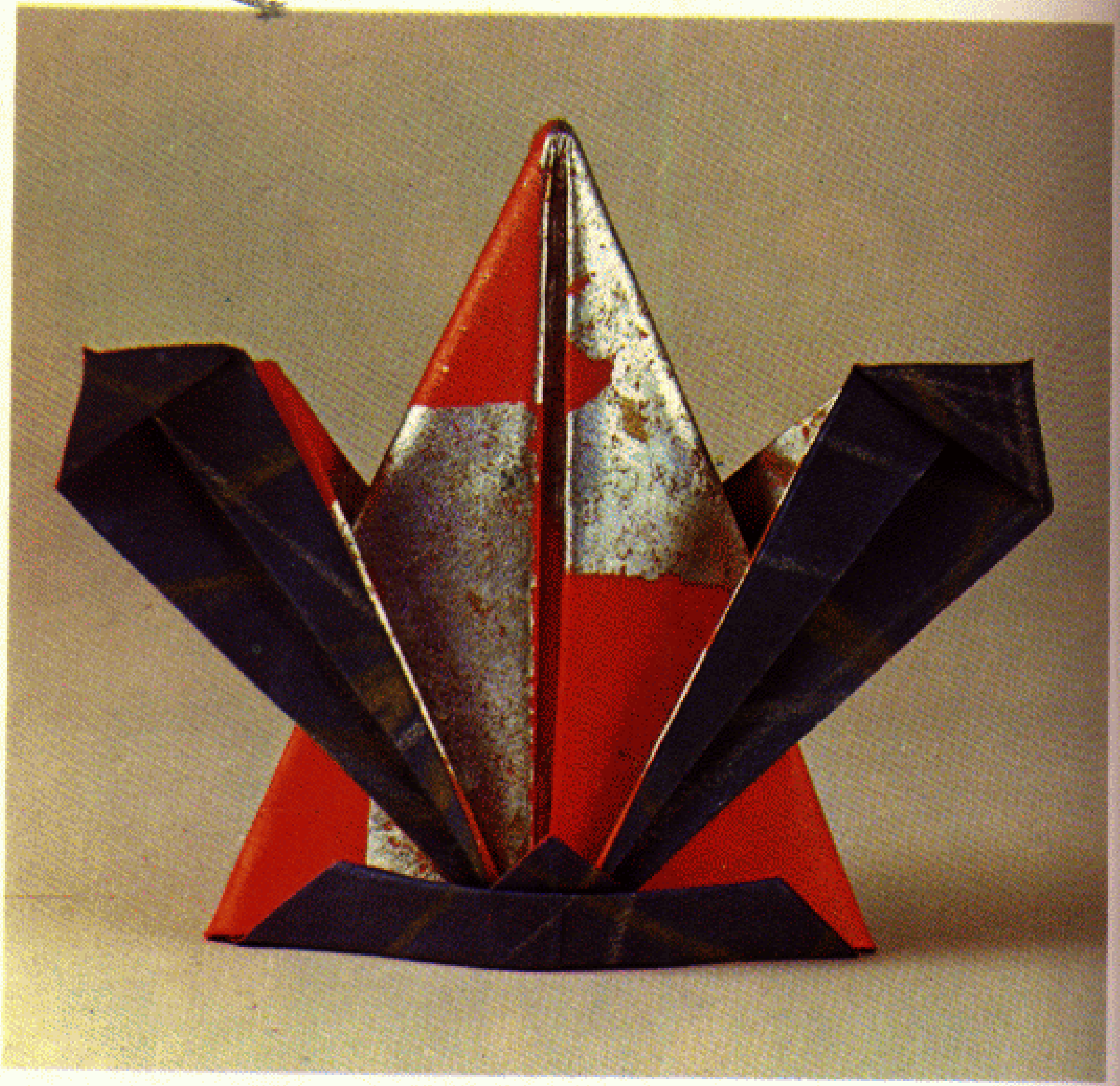
⑤ Fold top inward.

⑥ Fold up at dotted line in ⑤.

⑦ Fold down as shown.

⑧ Fold backward at dotted lines in ⑦ and open bottom section all the way to back.

⑨ Raise sail.



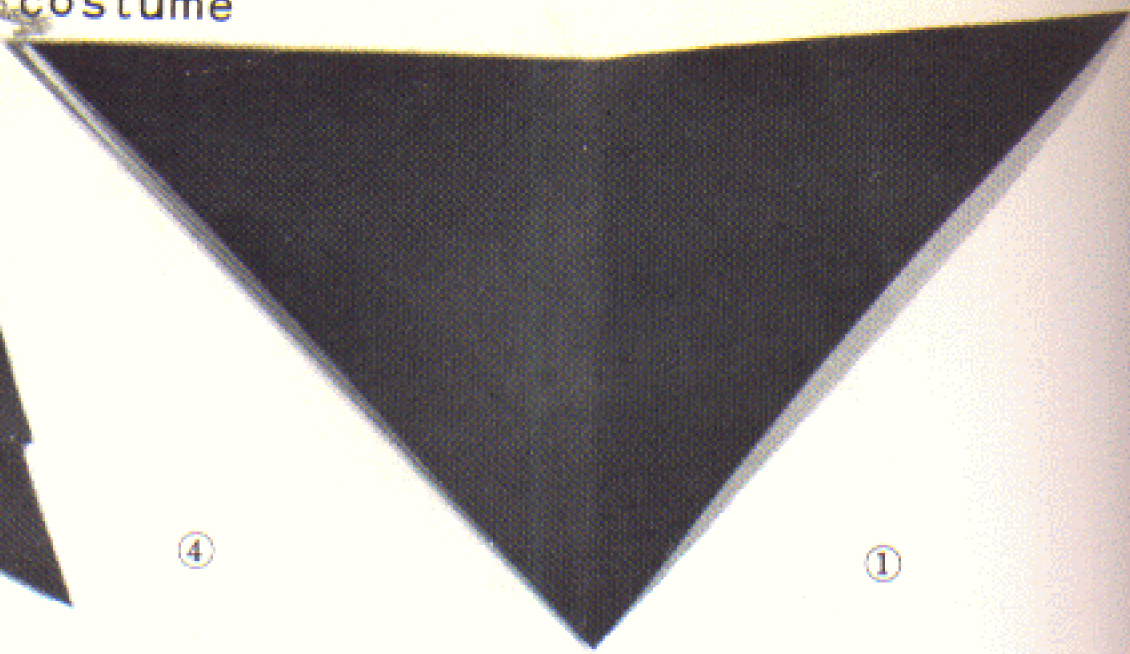
Samurai helmet

The slightest variation in folding results in delicate shifts in the Noh stance.
Experiment with your own variations. With the helmet, different colors give quite different effects. I used the same paper for the costume and the helmet.

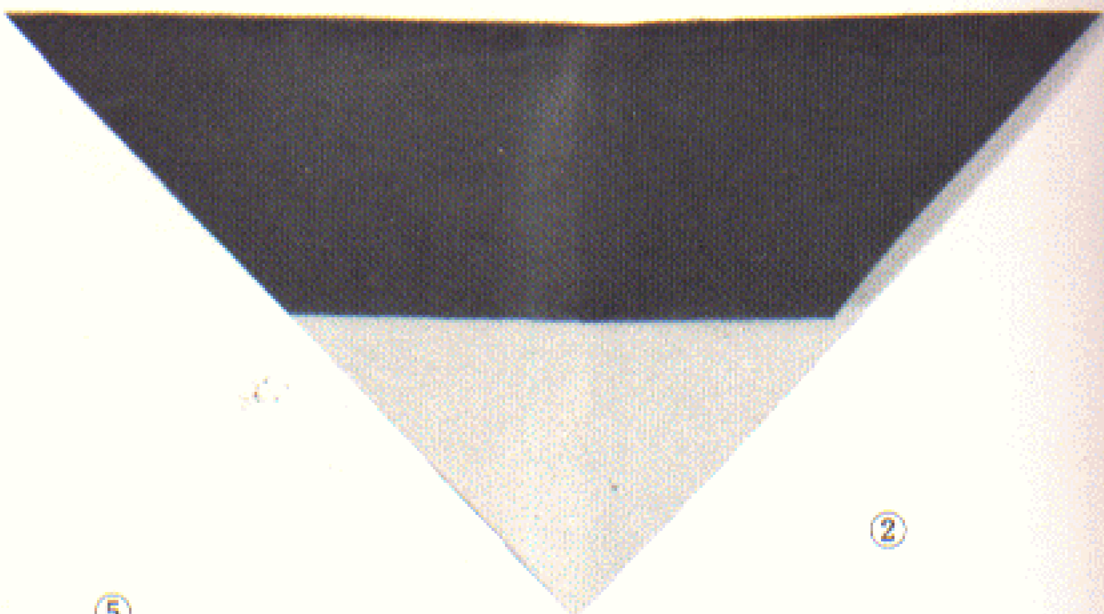
Noh costume



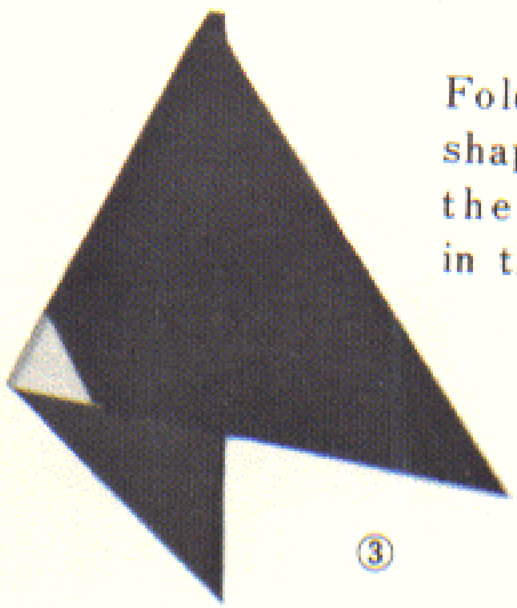
Noh costume



①



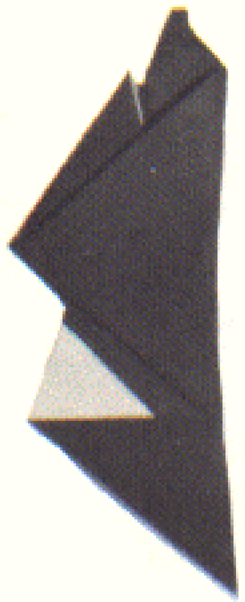
②



③



④



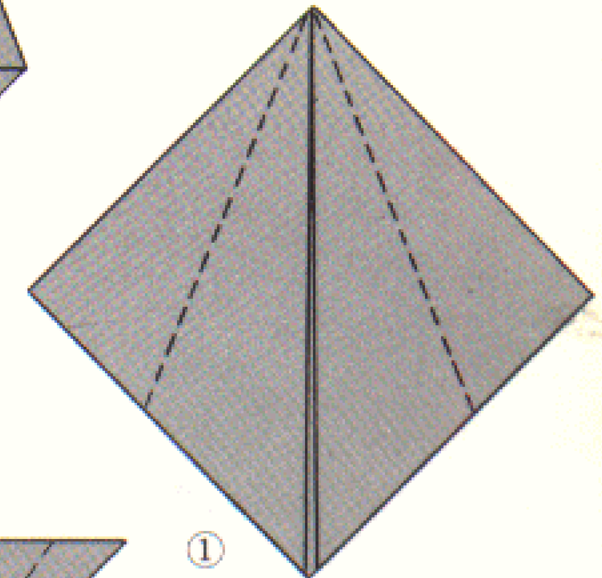
⑤



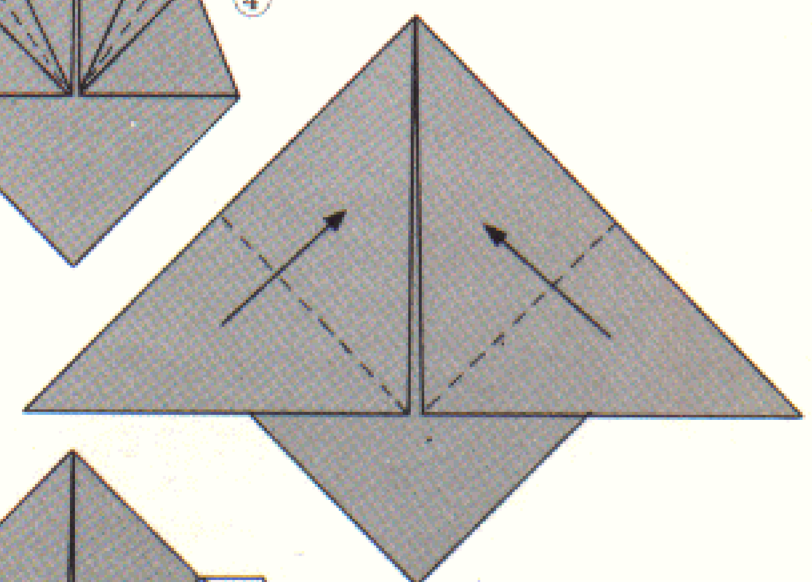
⑥

Fold carefully. The shape changes with the slightest variation in the folding angle.

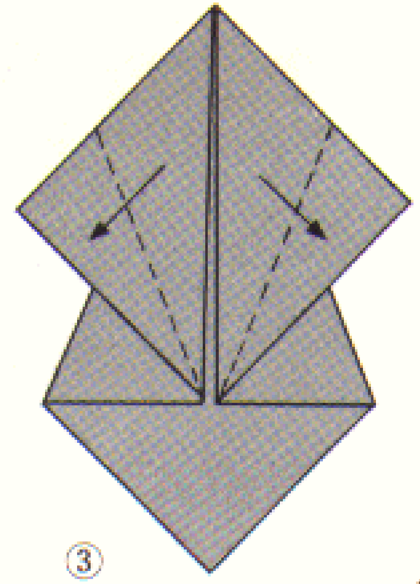
Samurai helmet



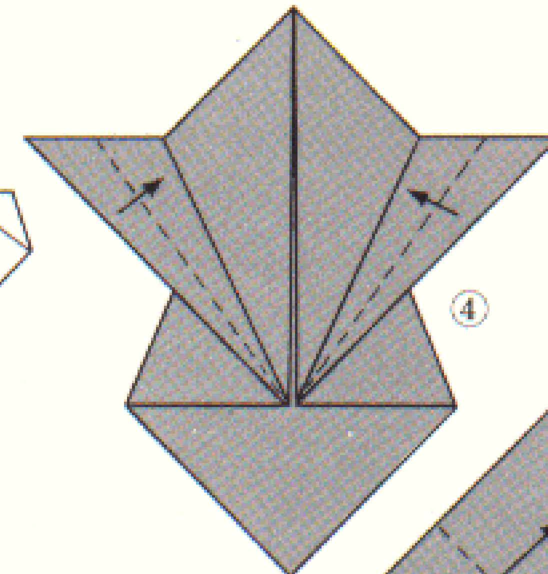
① First fold to triangle shape and then fold to center line as shown.



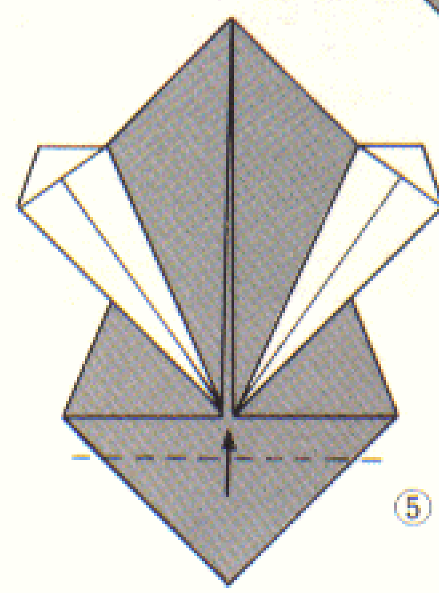
② Turn over ① and fold along dotted lines.



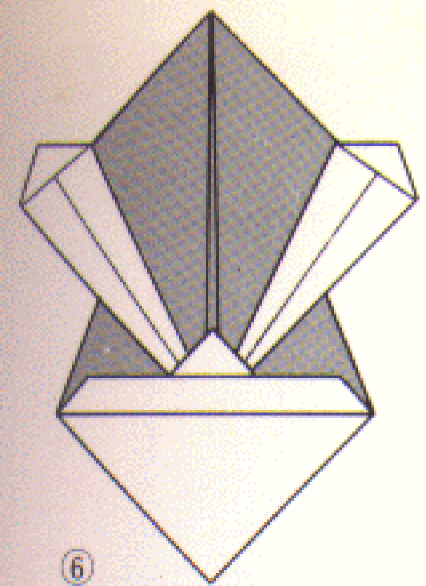
③ Fold along dotted lines.



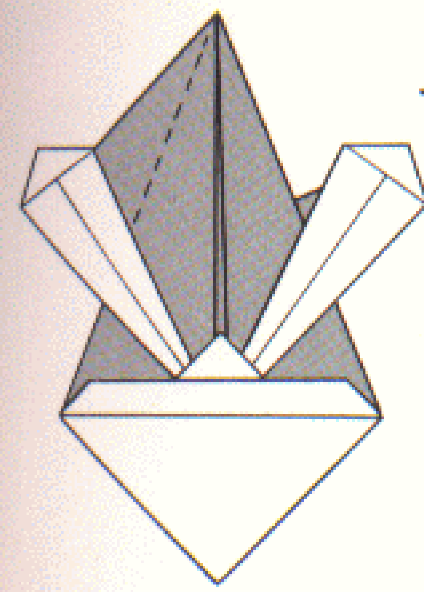
④



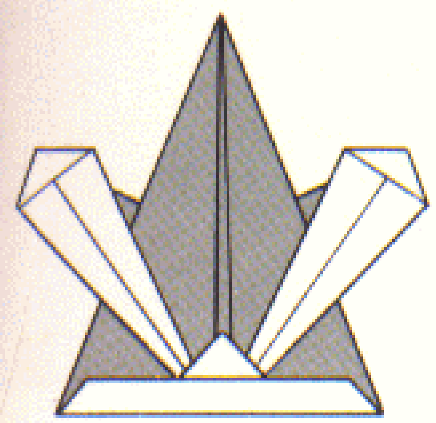
⑤ Fold along dotted lines in ④ and open out as shown.



⑥ Fold back upper layer triangle at bottom.



⑦ Fold backward at dotted line.



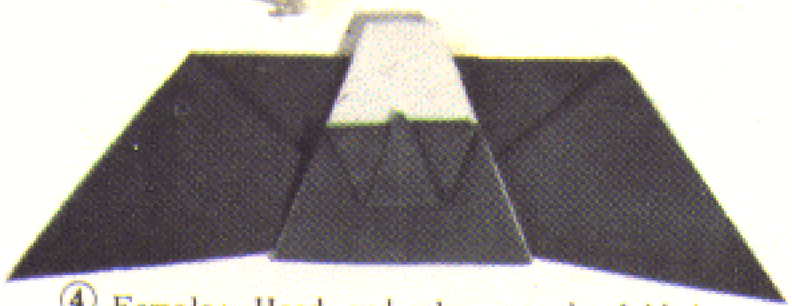
⑧ Fold bottom triangle inward.



Girl's Day dolls

Use as colorful paper as available. Add crowns, fans, and other accessories to give realistic effect.

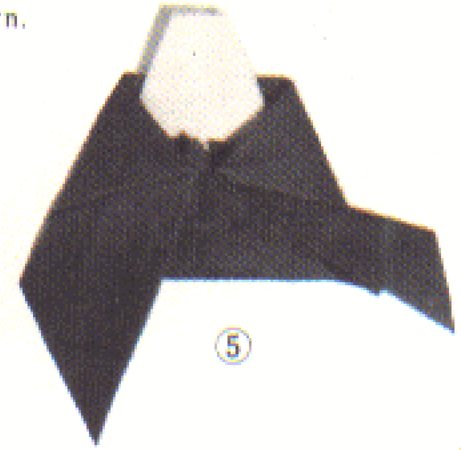
Girl's Day doll



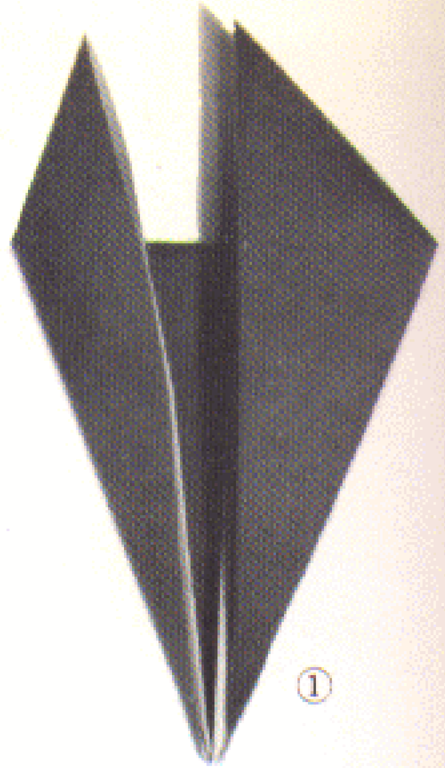
④ Female: Head and sleeve ends folded back. Bottom folded back and costume folded as shown.



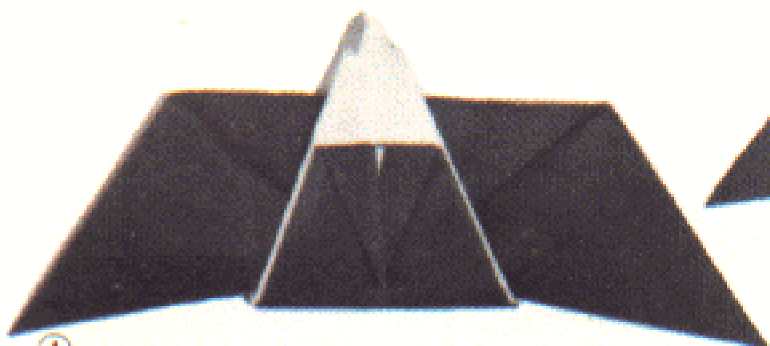
⑥ Corners rounded off.



⑤



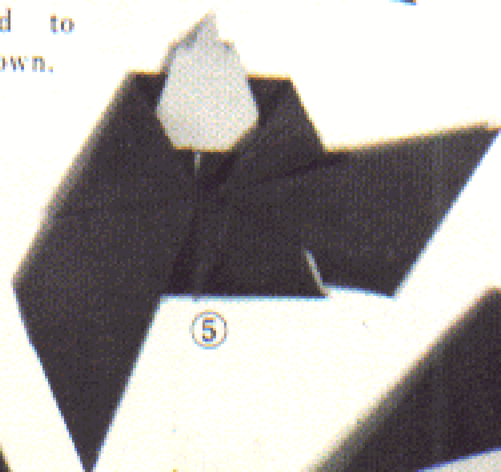
①



④ Male: Fold head to form crown as shown.



② Fold tops forward and two sides.



⑤



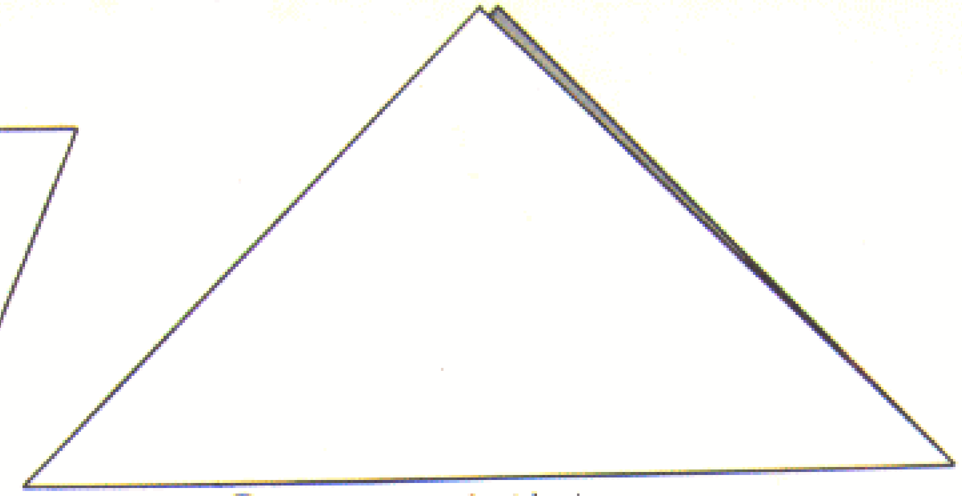
⑥



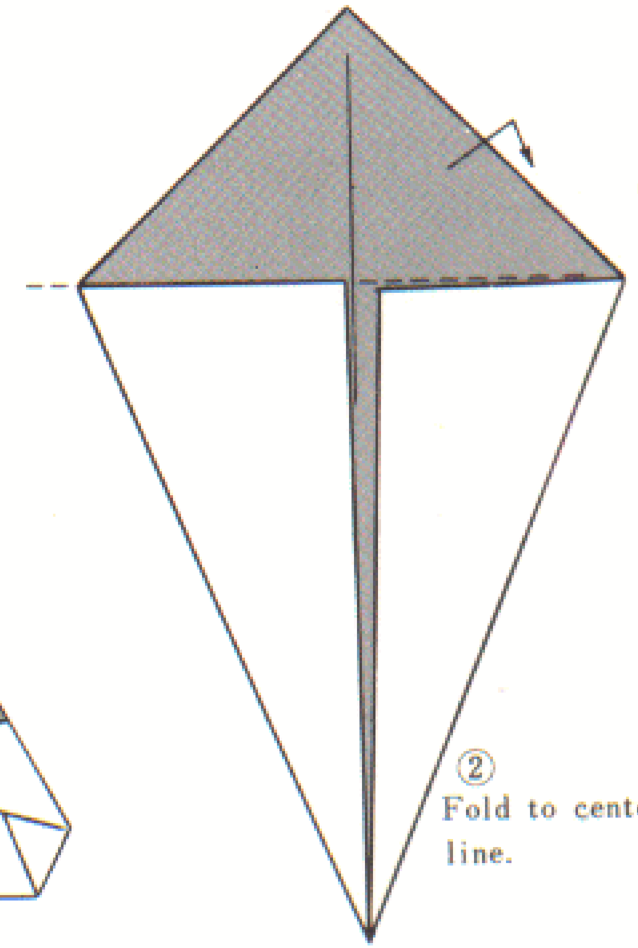
⑦



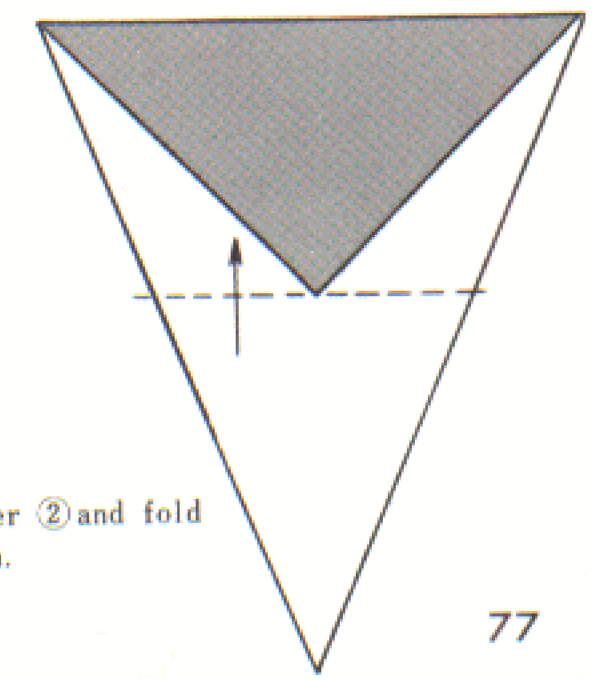
③ Male and female folded identically to here.



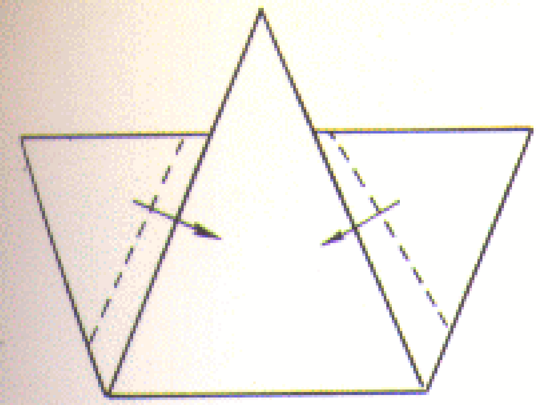
① Fold colored side in.



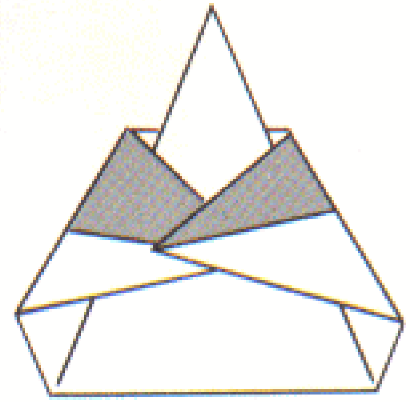
② Fold to center line.



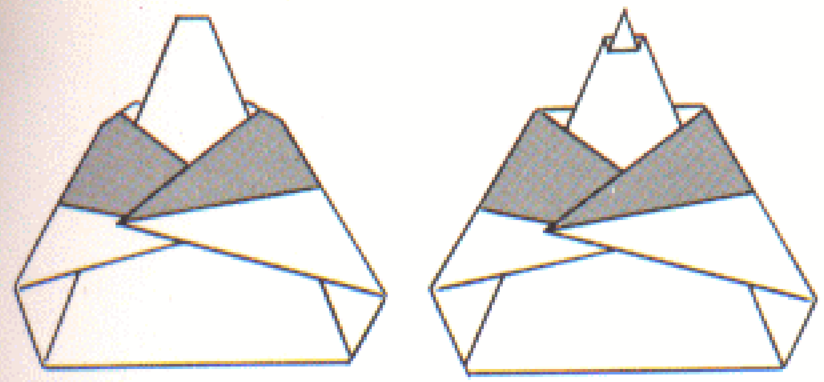
③ Turn over ② and fold top down.



④ Turn over ③ and fold up at dotted line in ③.



⑤ Fold forward at dotted lines in ④ to make sleeves.



⑥ Left: Fold head and shoulders to make female. Right: Fold head as shown to make male.



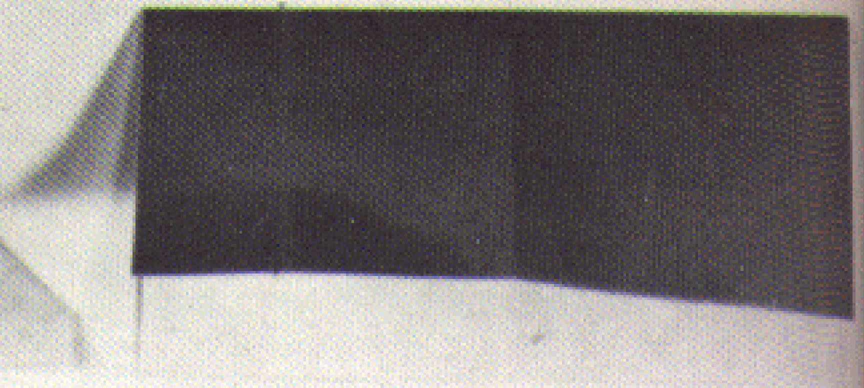
Cowboy hat

Paper about two feet square will give you a hat large enough for an abult.
Both these hats were made with "Texan" paper.

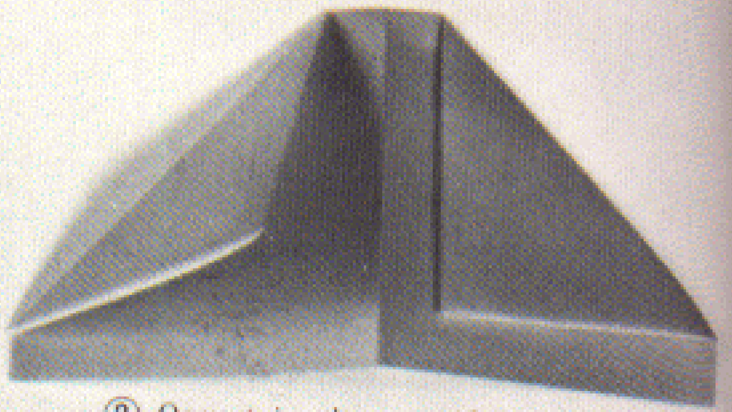
Sombrero ▸



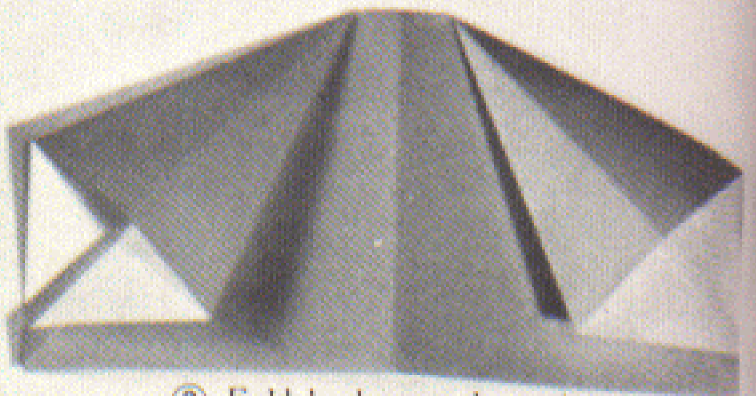
Cowboy hat



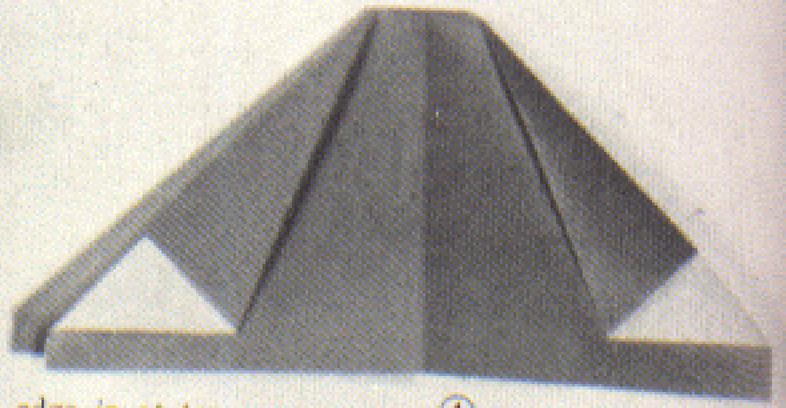
① Fold in half.



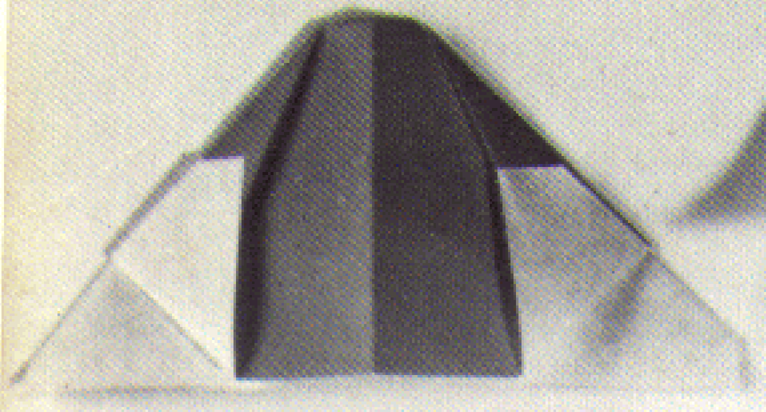
② Open triangles on sides and press flat.



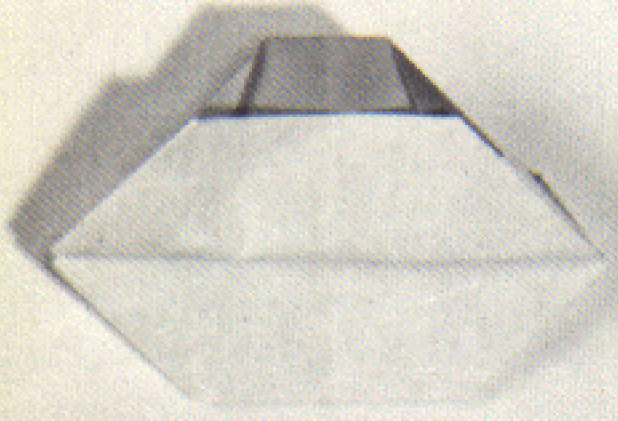
③ Fold back opened sections at center lines.



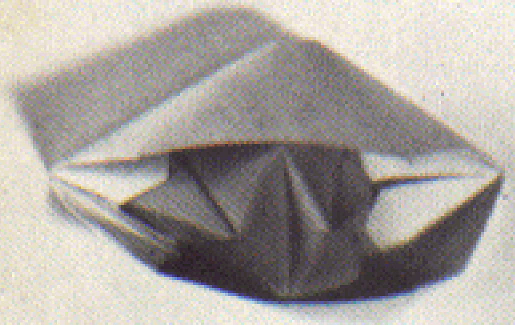
④



⑤ Roll back along sides.



⑥



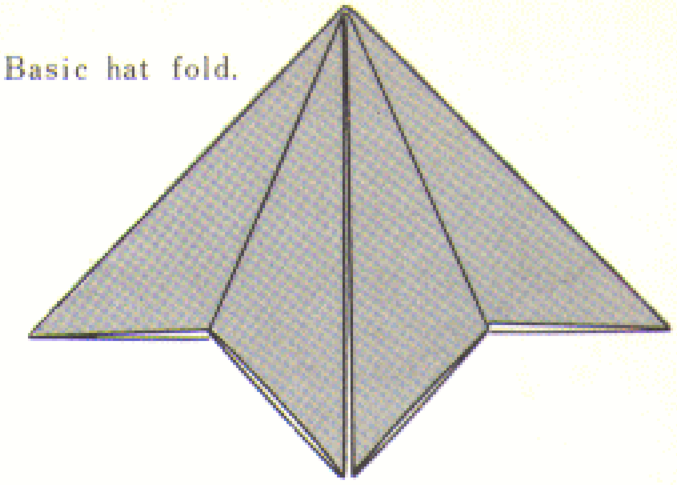
⑦ Form brim.



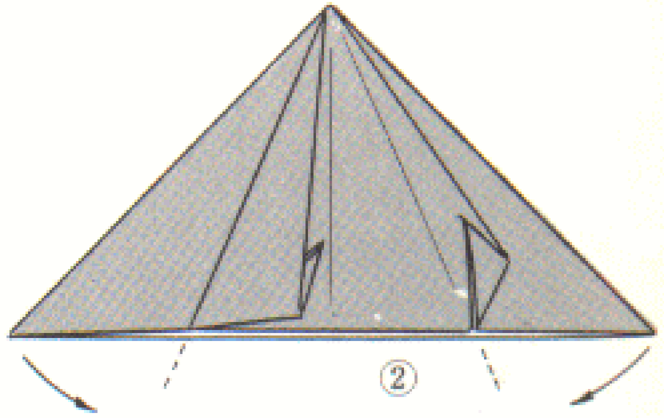
⑧ Curl brim edge in at top.

Sombrero

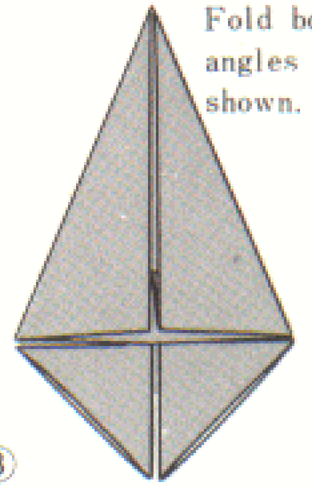
Basic hat fold.



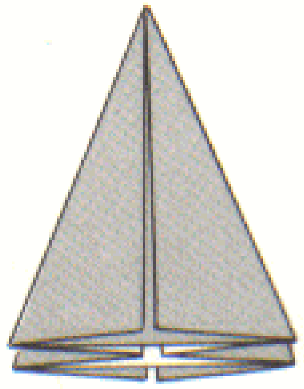
① Fold to center line.



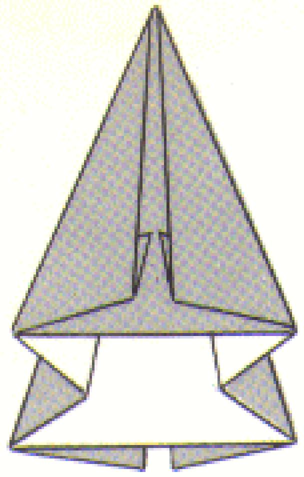
② Fold both two triangles inward as shown.



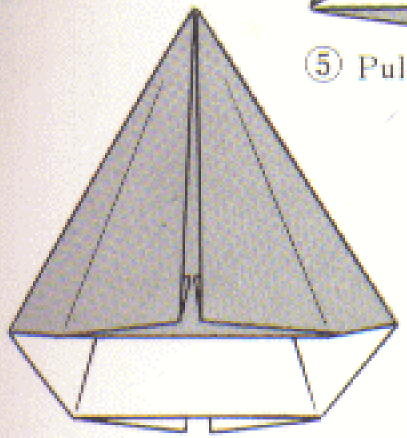
③ Turn over and repeat process.



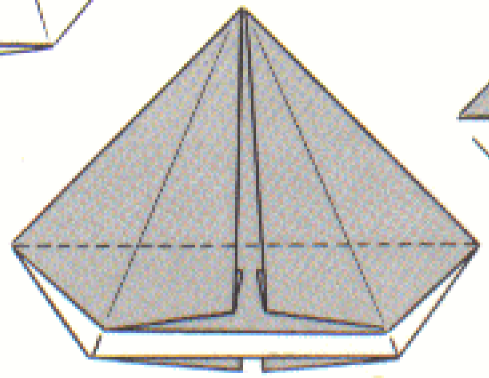
④



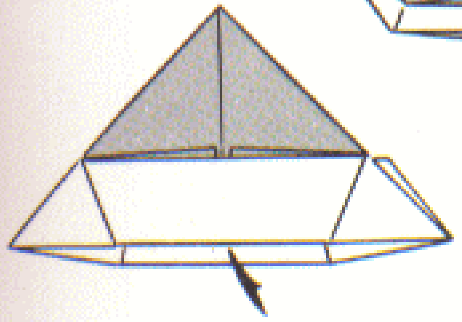
⑤ Pull out inside section.



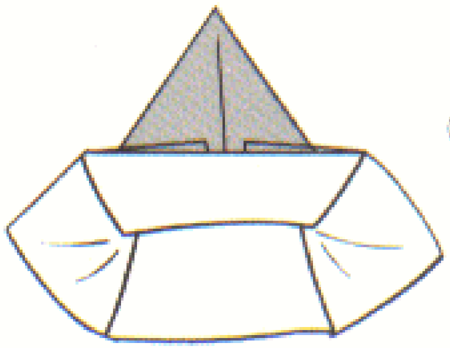
⑥



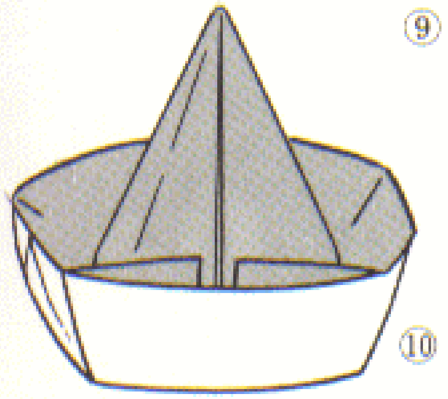
⑦



⑧ Fold both sides along dotted line in ⑦ and open out.

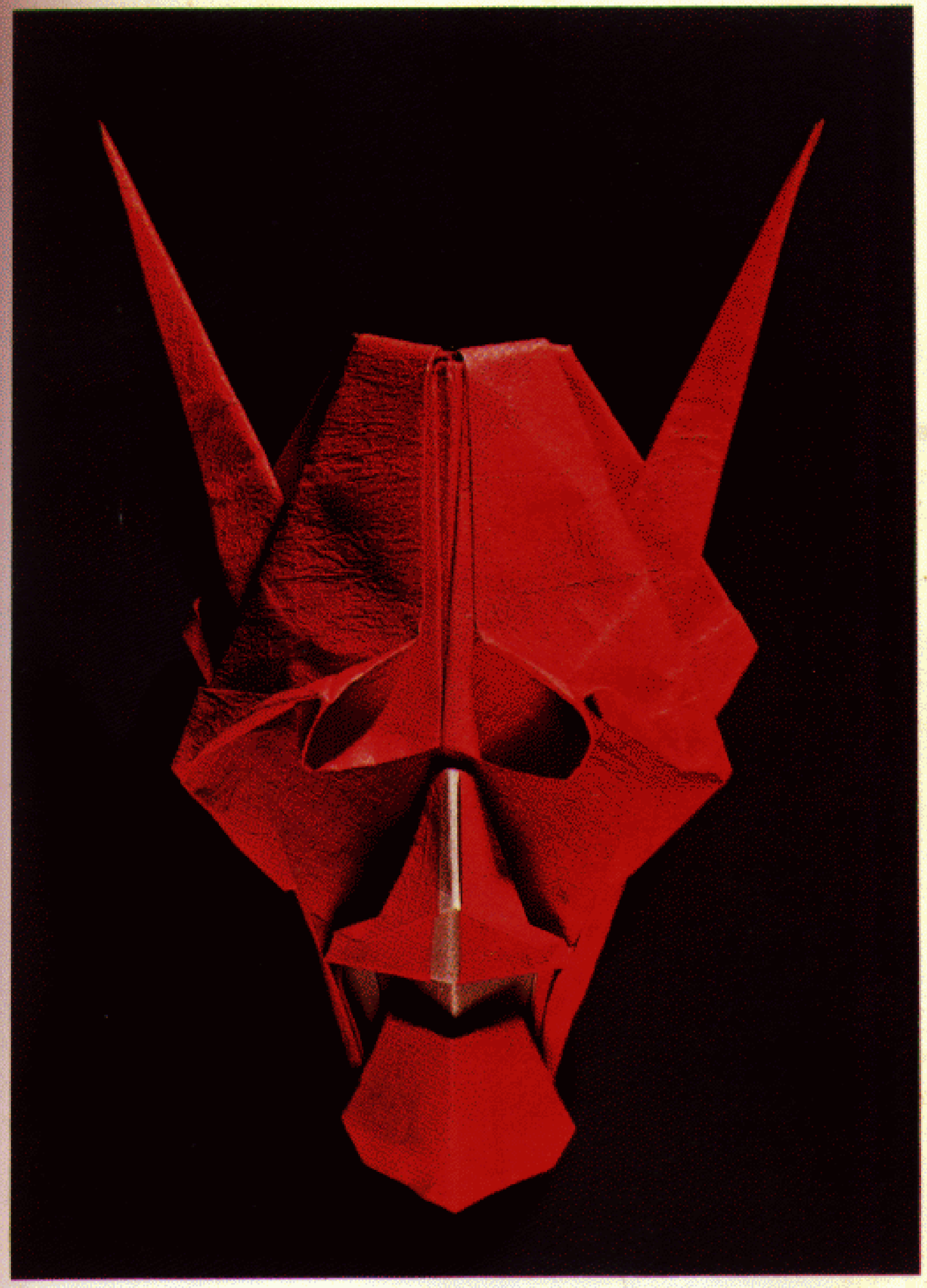


⑨ Shape brim as you widen for wearing.



⑩



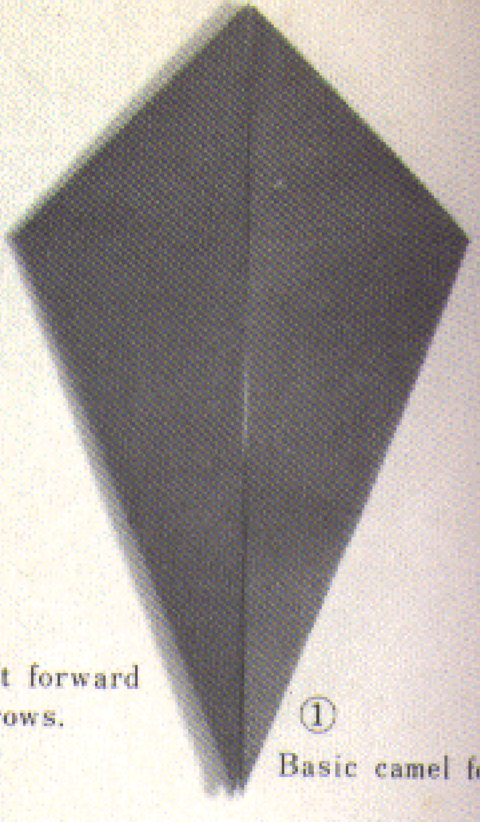


Female demon's mask

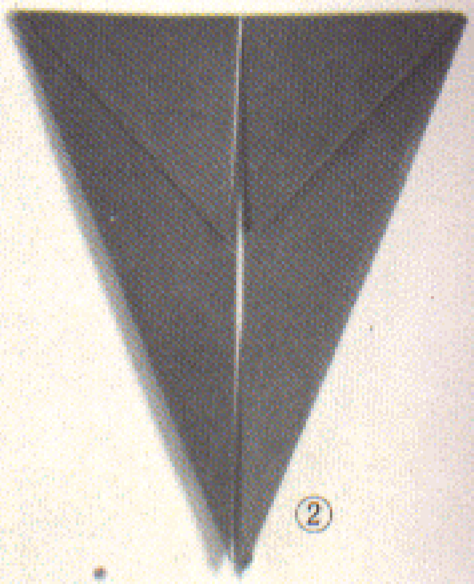
Facial expression can be changed depending on individual taste.

Old man's mask

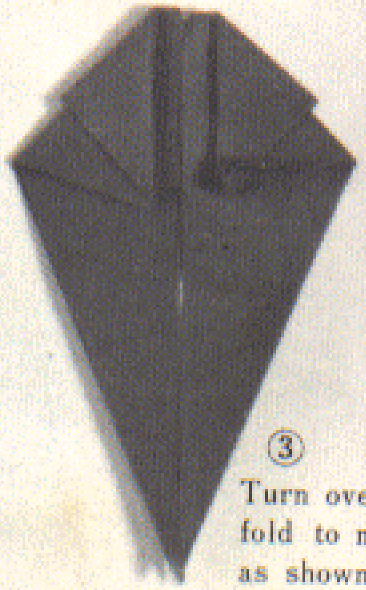
Japanese paper (*washi*) is easier to work with. Pay close attention to eyes and mouth.



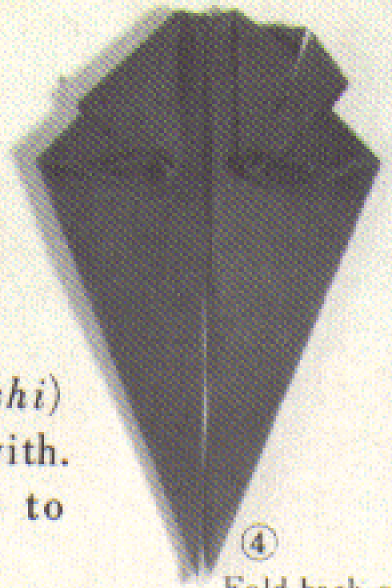
① Basic camel fold.



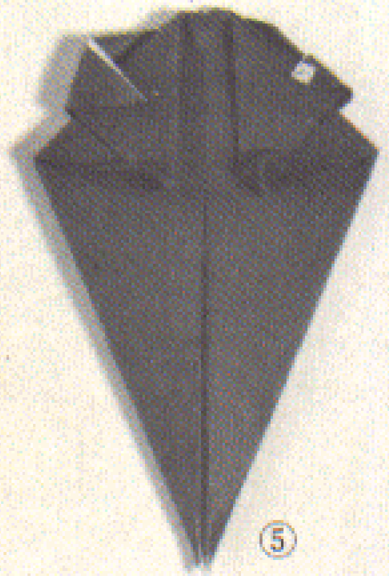
②



③ Turn over ② and fold to make eyes as shown.



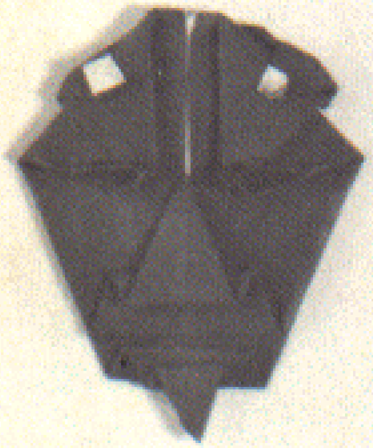
④ Fold back part forward to make eyebrows.



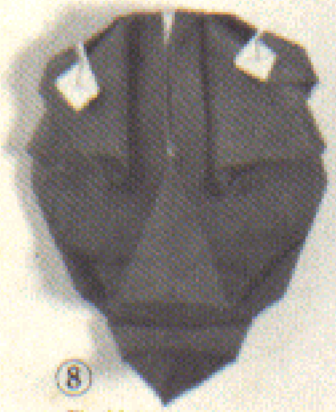
⑤



⑥ Make nose.

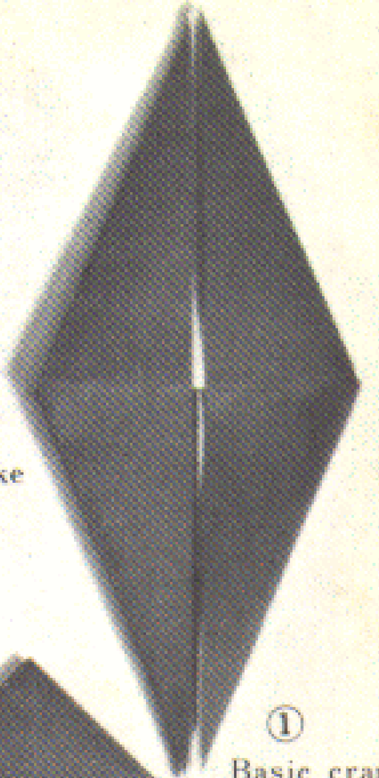


⑦ Make mouth and beard.

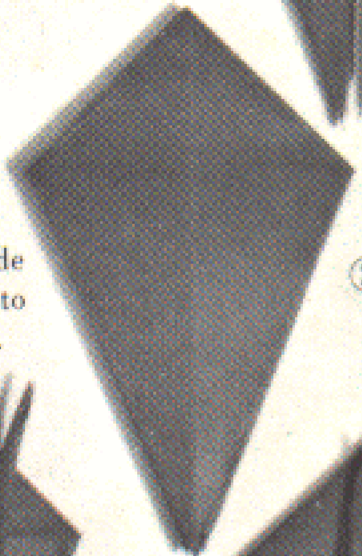


⑧ Pull out nose, and round edges near eyes and beard.

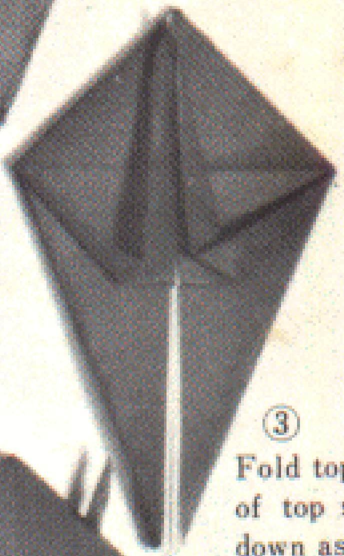
Female demon's mask



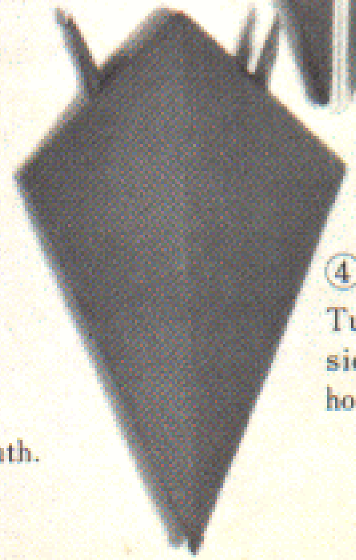
① Basic crane fold.



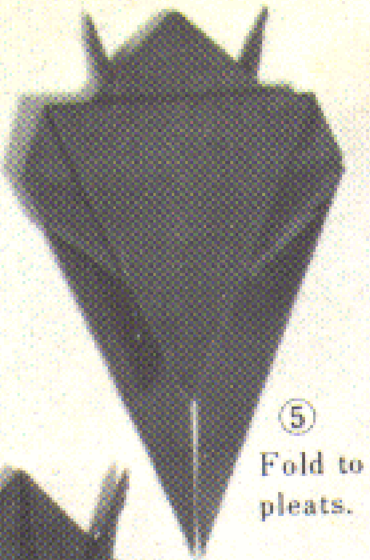
②



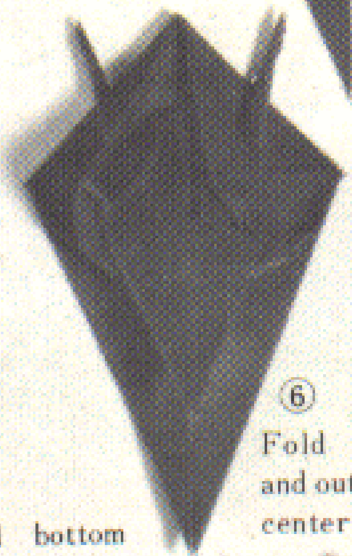
③ Fold top layer of top section down as shown.



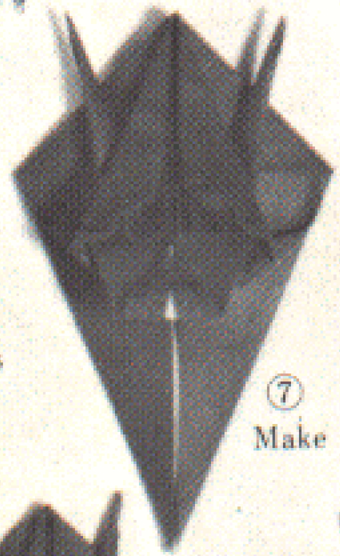
④ Turn over left side and pull horns out.



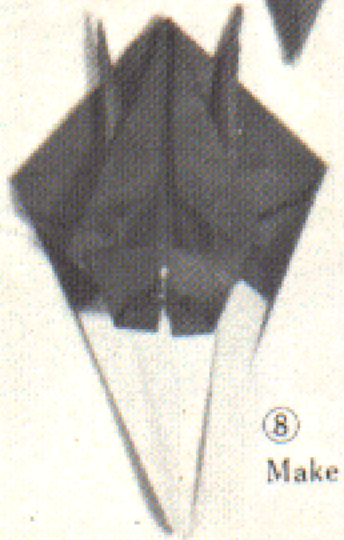
⑤ Fold to make pleats.



⑥ Fold inside and outside to center line.



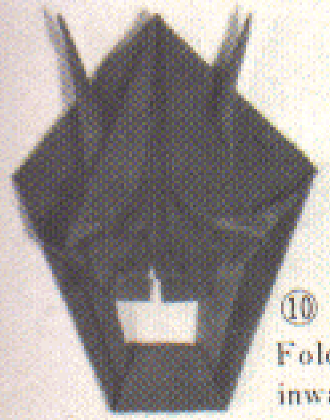
⑦ Make eyes.



⑧ Make mouth.



⑨ Fold edges back halfway.



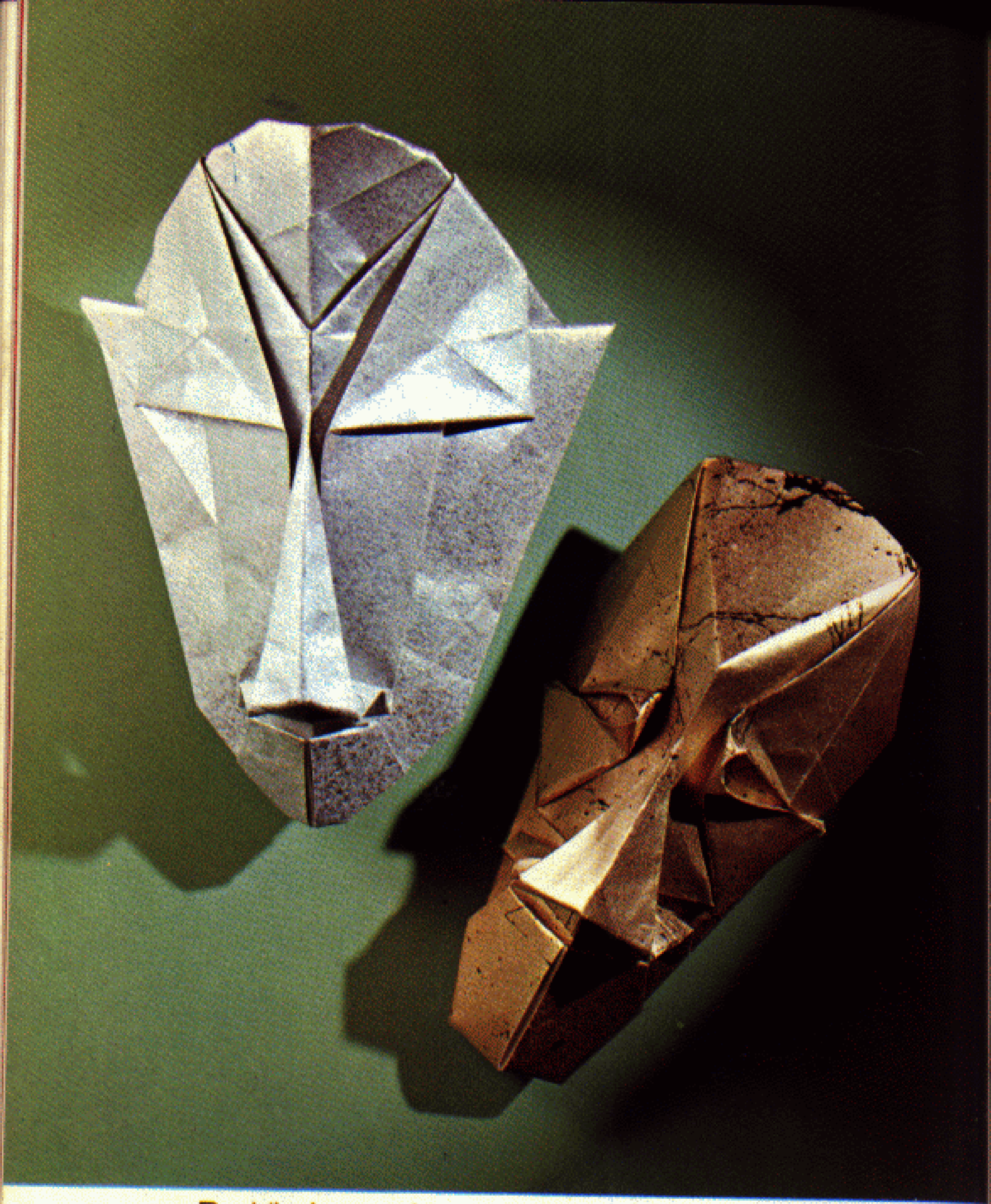
⑩ Fold bottom inward to make chin.



⑪ Turn over, fold corners to center line.

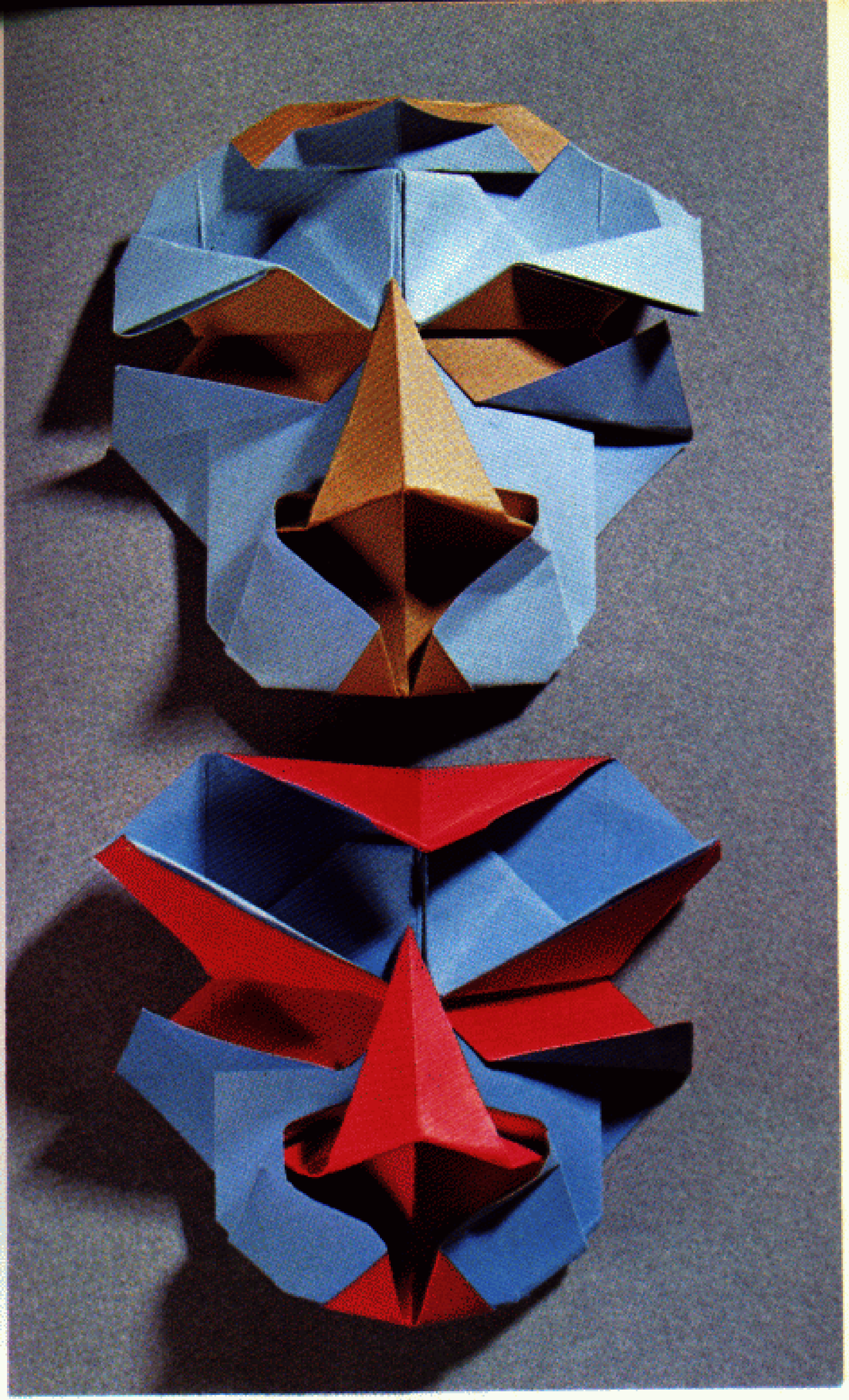


⑫



Buddha's mask Golden ghost's mask

Folkcraft paper was used for these masks.

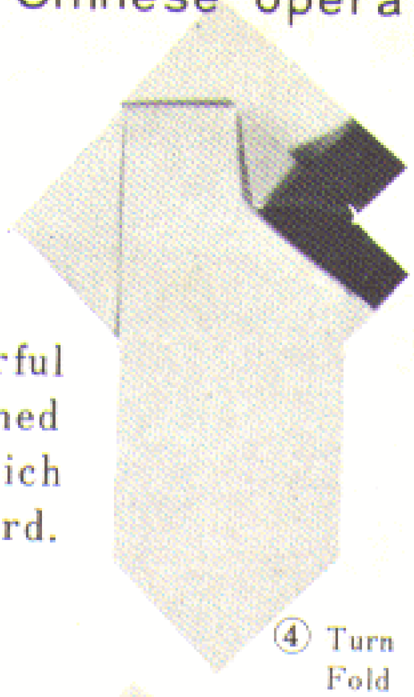


Mask for Chinese opera

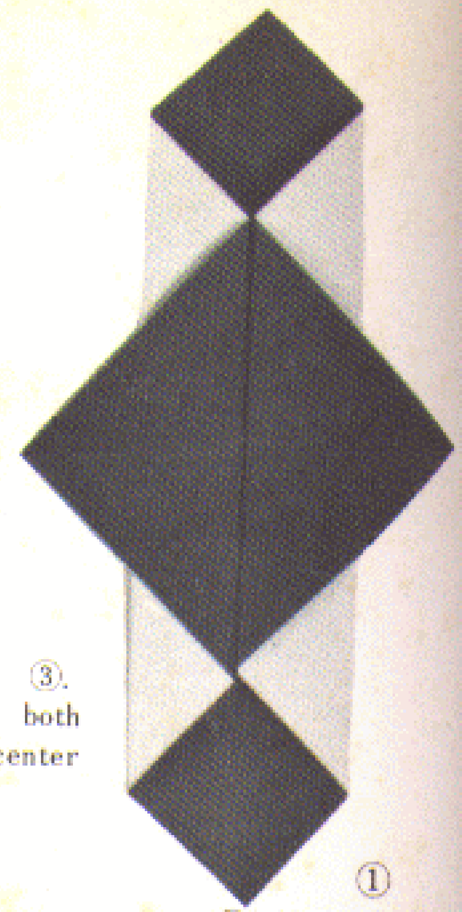
I have tried to make these approximate the genuine masks.

Mask for Chinese opera

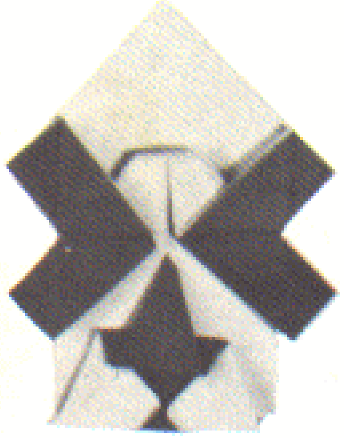
Different and colorful results can be obtained depending on which side is folded outward.



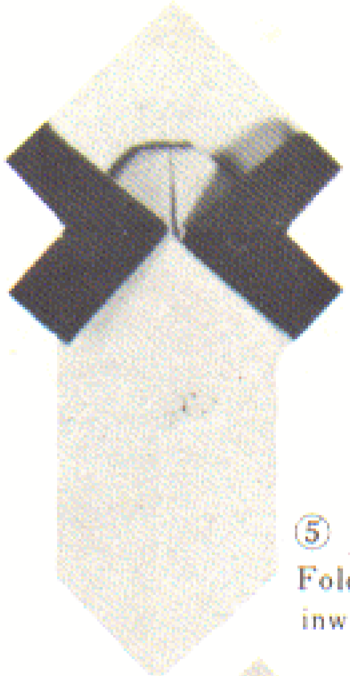
④ Turn over ③. Fold back both sides to center as shown.



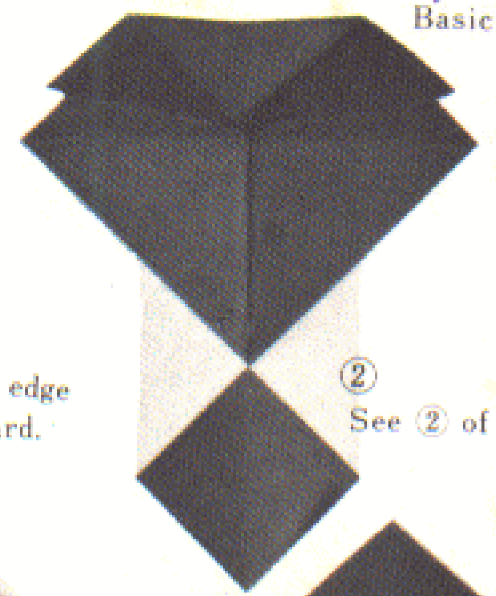
① Basic pony fold.



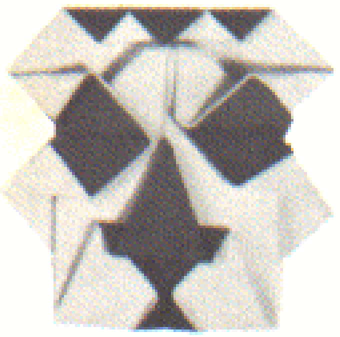
⑦ Make nose.



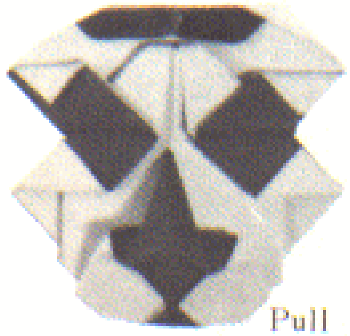
⑤ Fold edge inward.



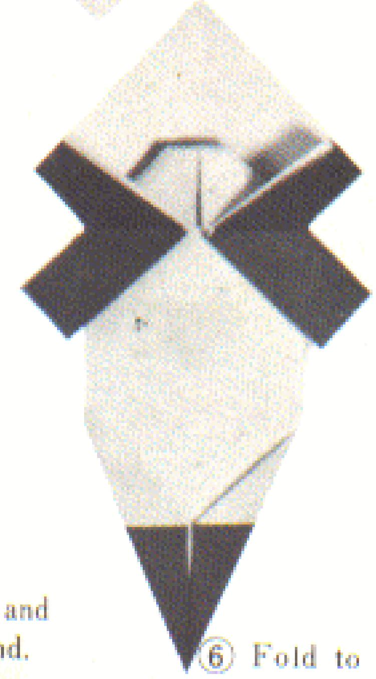
② See ② of Hydrangea (p. 49)



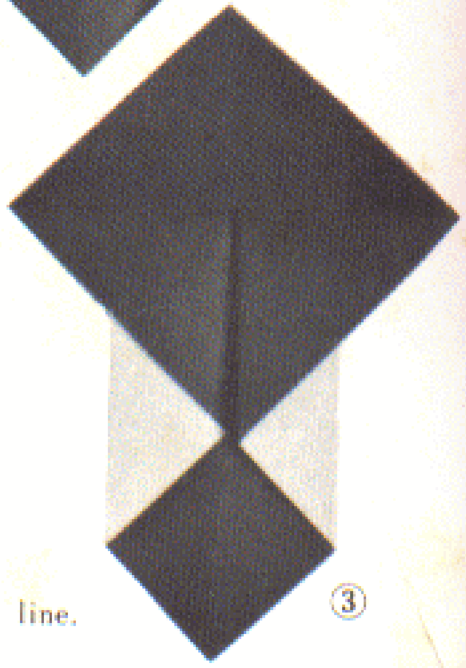
⑧ Fold top twice.



⑨ Pull nose up and make chin round.



⑥ Fold to center line.

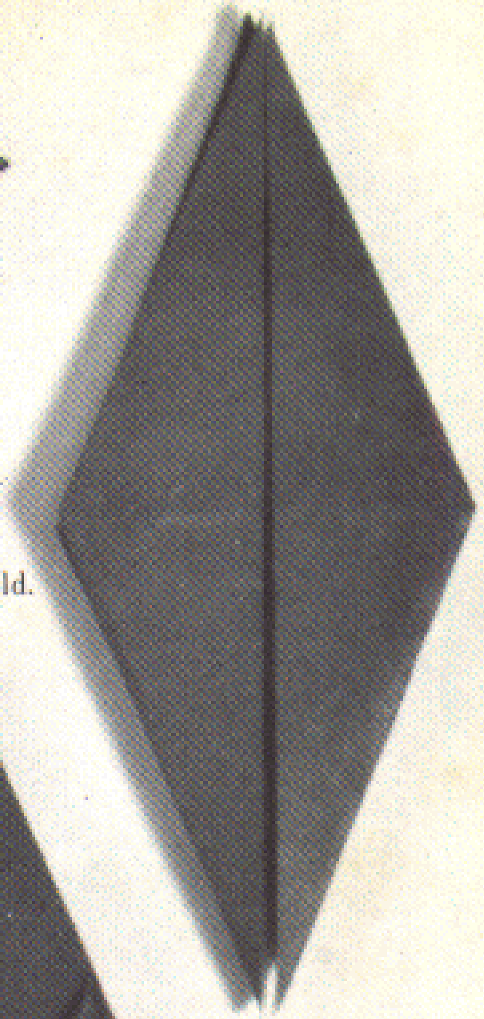


③

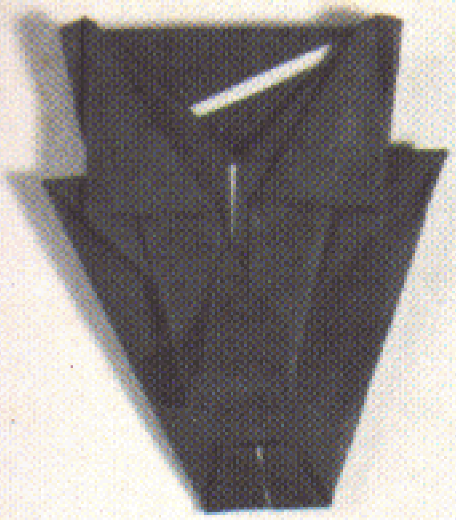
Buddha's mask



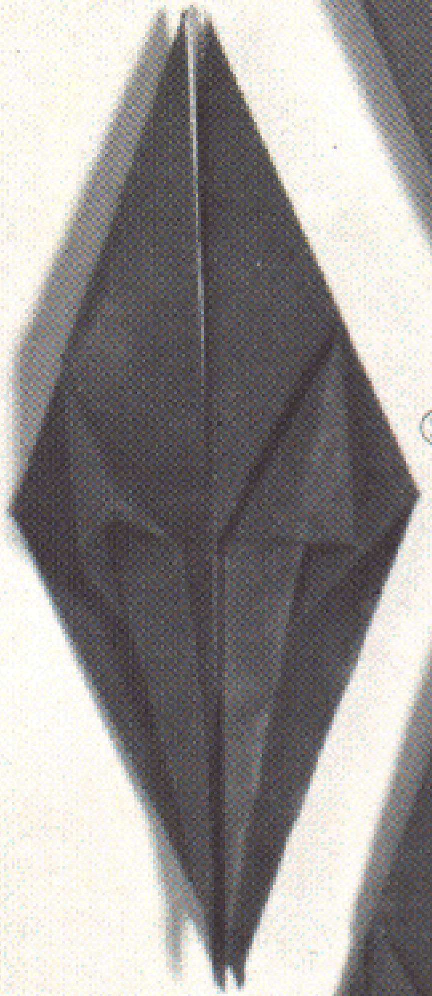
④ Fold top to the sides and fold back.



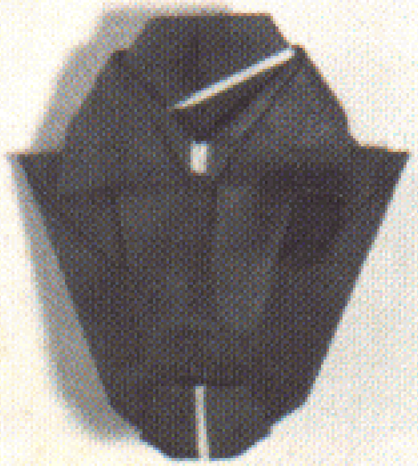
① Basic crane fold.



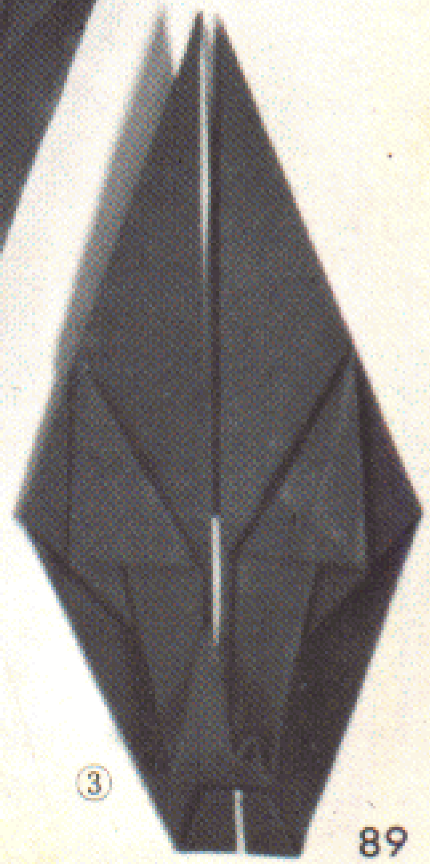
⑤ Fold corners backward to center line.



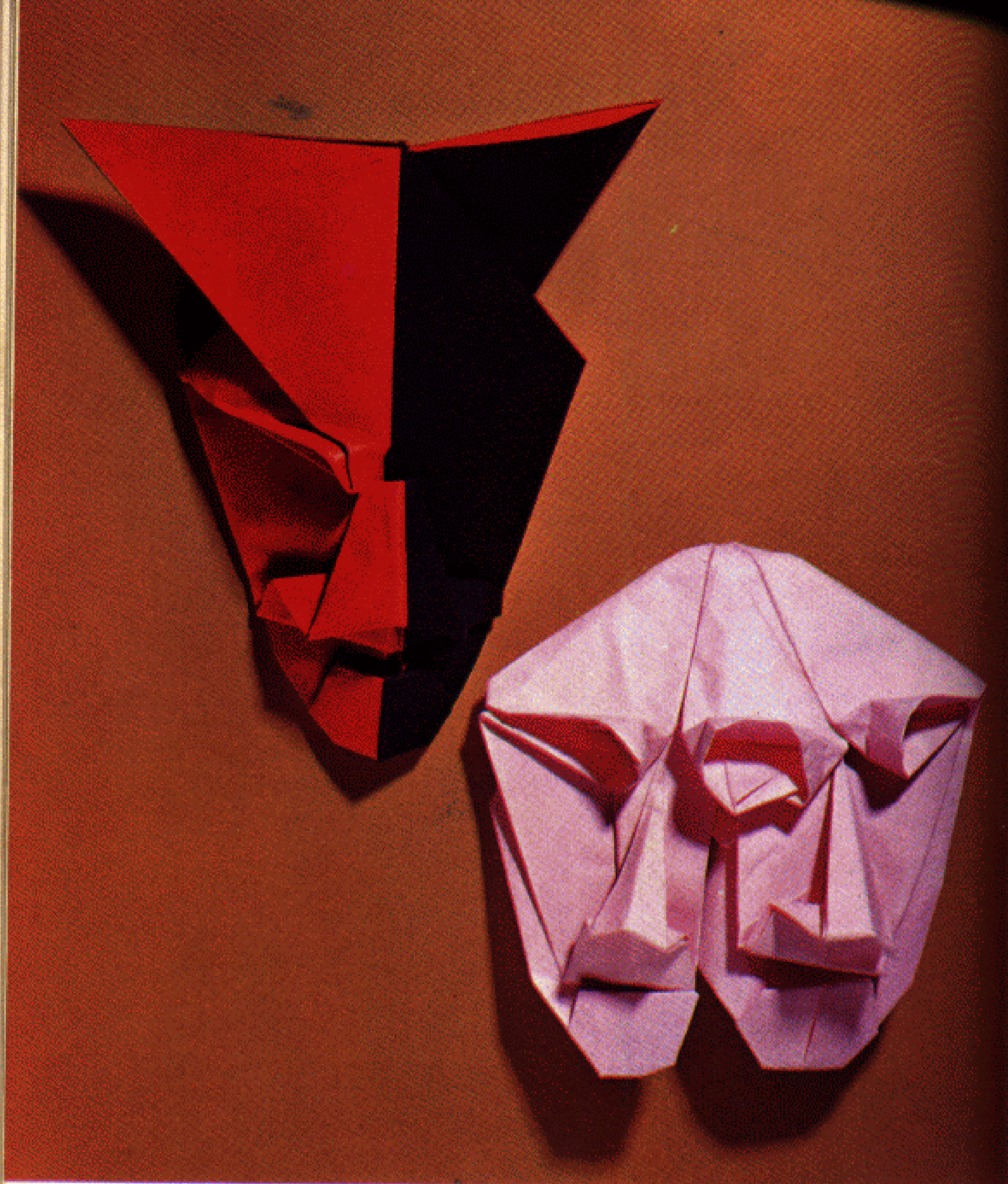
② Fold in to center line and press flat.



⑥ Pull up nose and round chin.

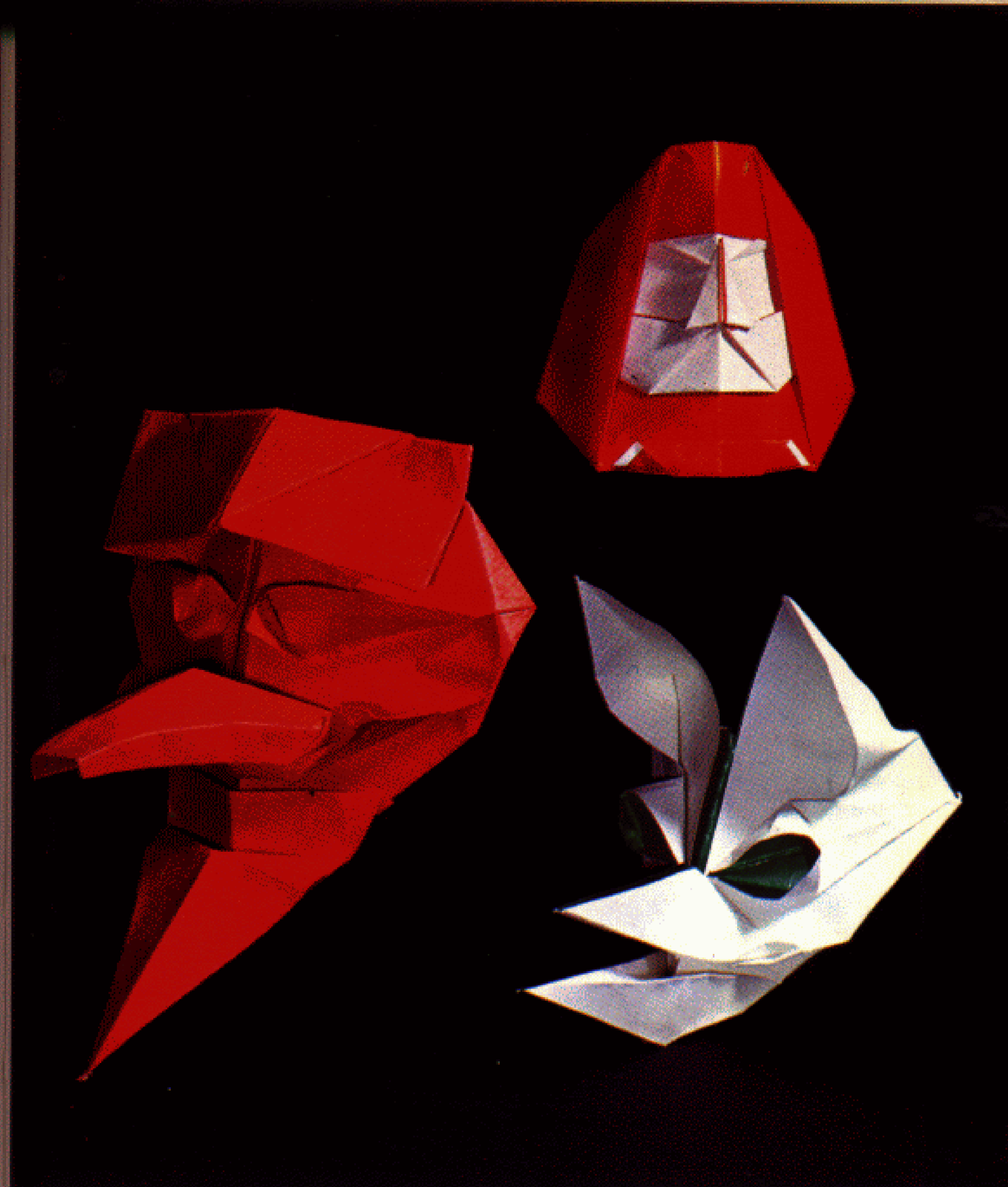


③



Red and black mask　　Two-faced mask

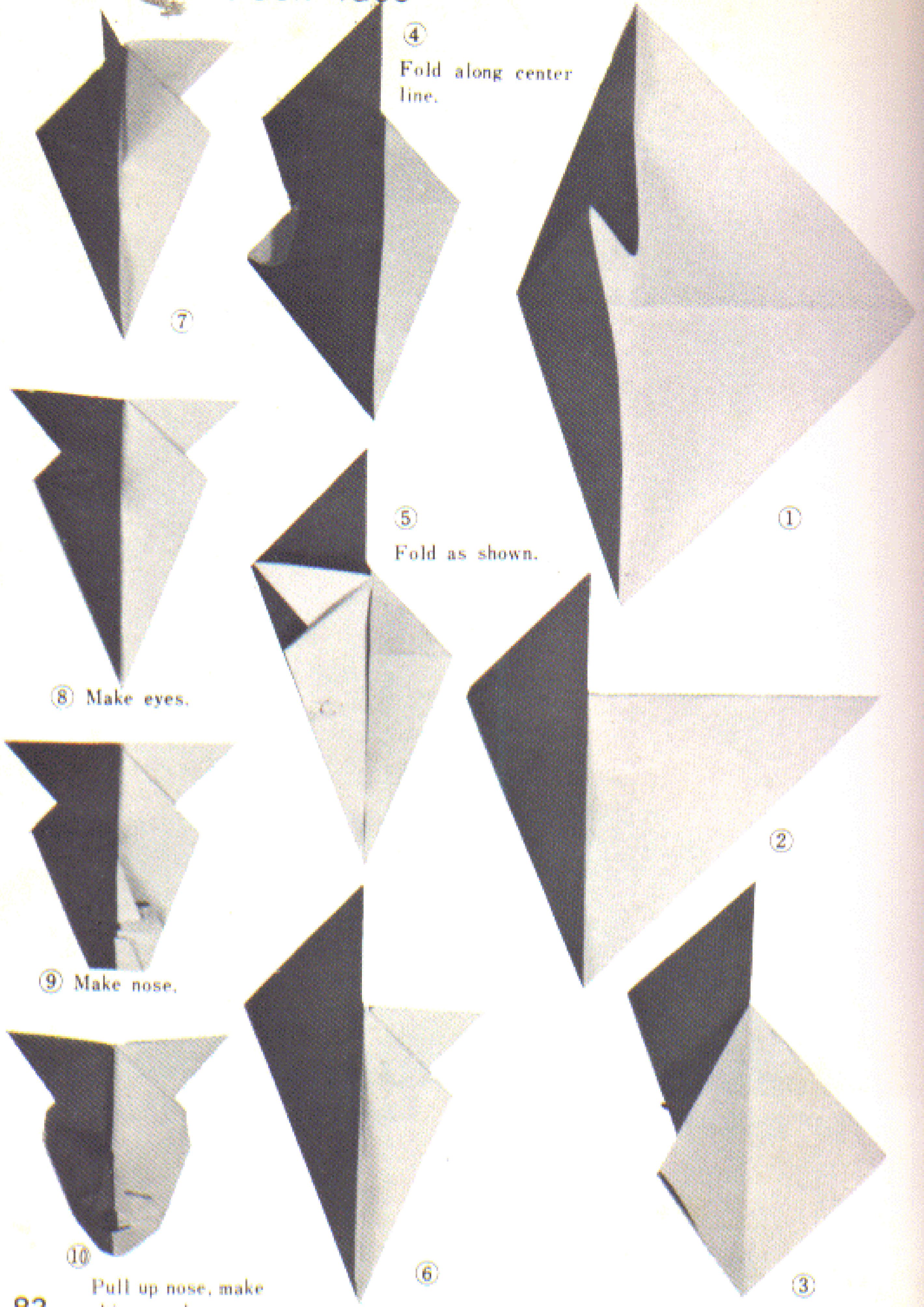
The red and black mask uses two different colors folded back to back.



Long-nosed goblin　　Daruma　　Fox mask (folding sequence on p.118)

Experiment with Daruma's costume for different color effects and facial expression.

Red and black face



④ Fold along center line.

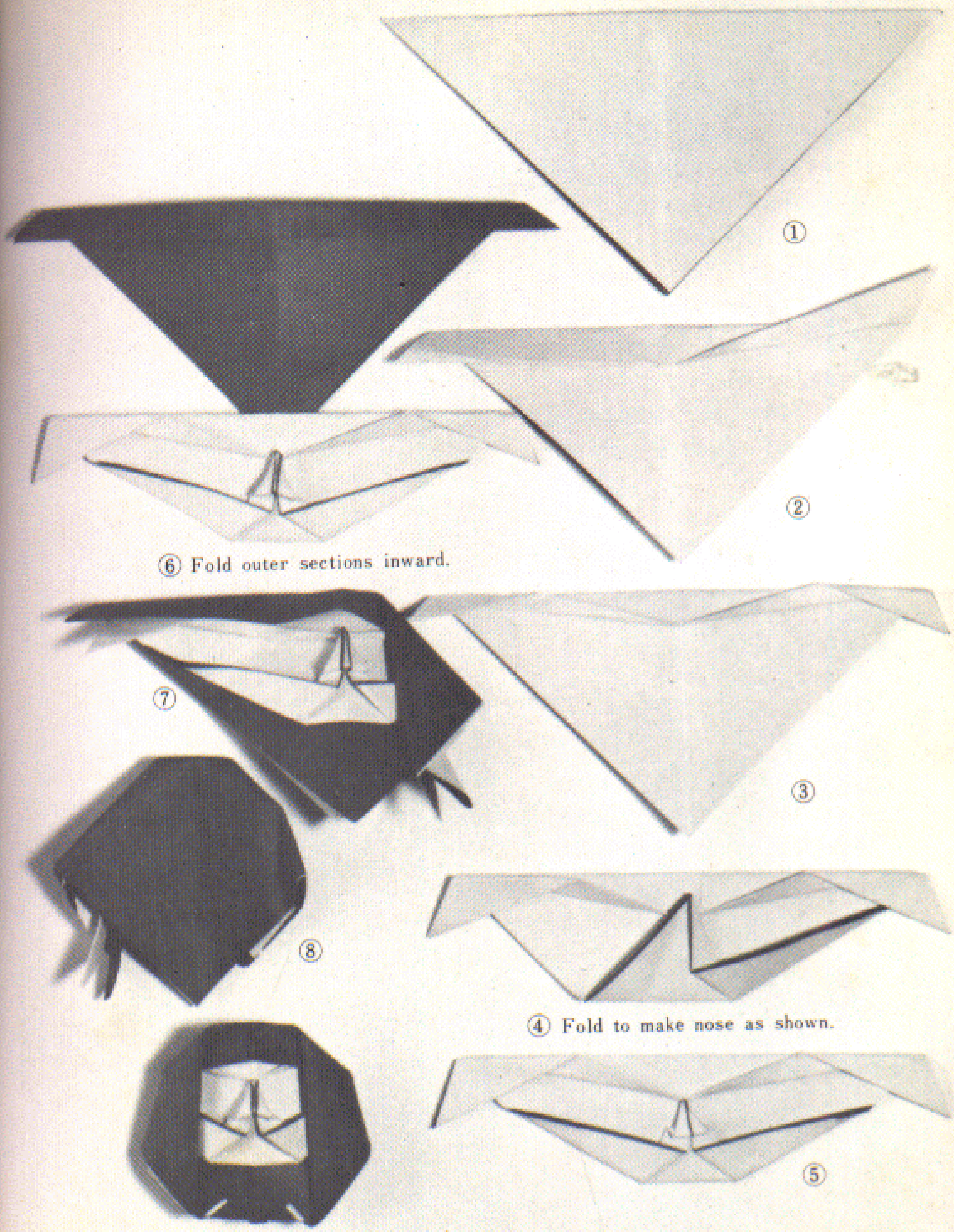
⑤ Fold as shown.

⑧ Make eyes.

⑨ Make nose.

⑩ Pull up nose, make chin round.

Daruma (Two sheets of paper needed)



④ Fold to make nose as shown.

⑥ Fold outer sections inward.

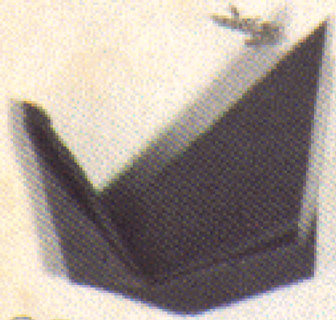
⑥ Fold bottom once and fold back.

Pigeons in flight

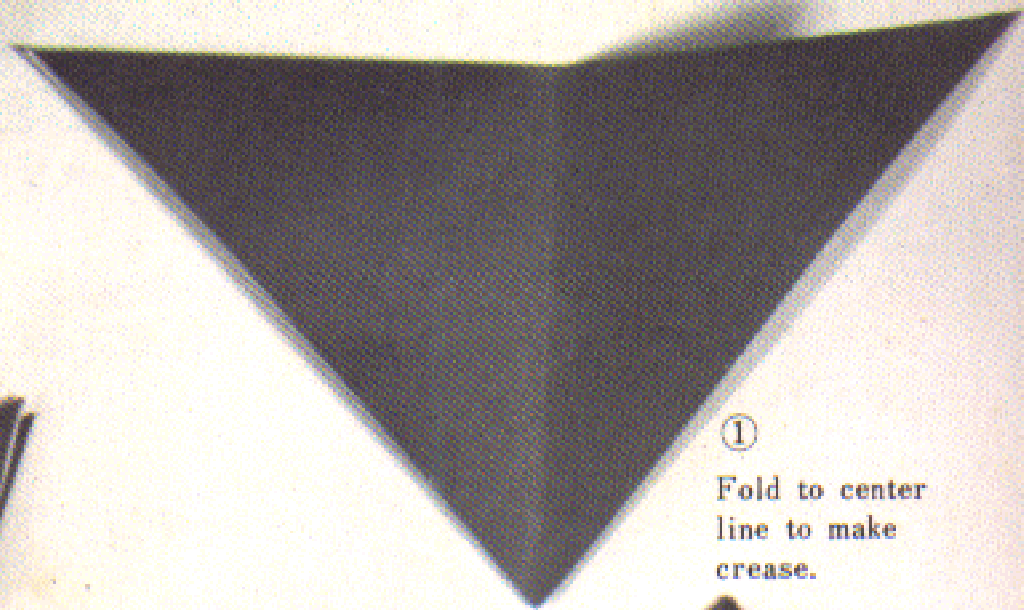
These pigeons in flight decorate a corner of the Livelihood Industry Pavilion at EXPO'70.
Electricity is used to make them flap their wings as if they were flying.
This kind of decoration is ideal for a child's room.



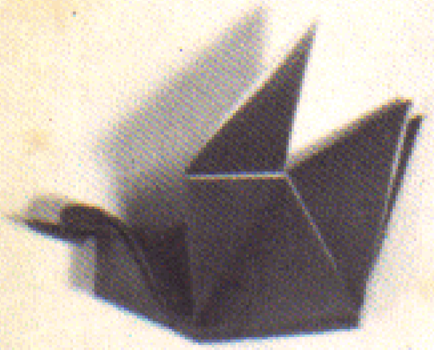
Pigeon in flight



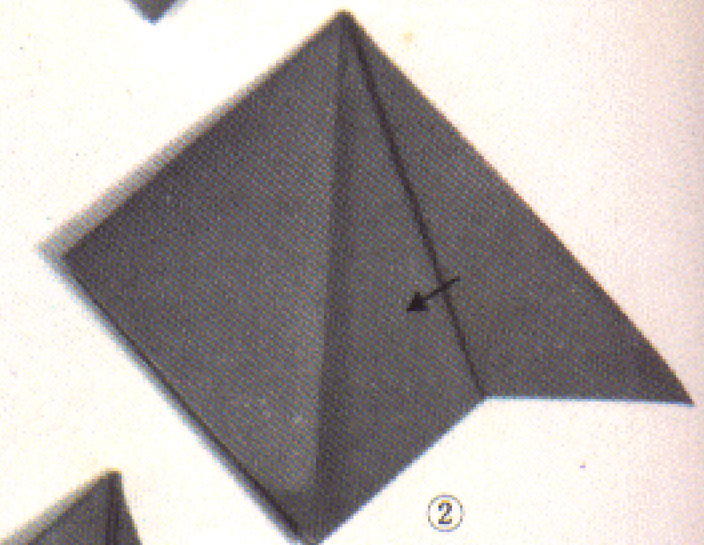
⑤ Turn over and fold as shown.



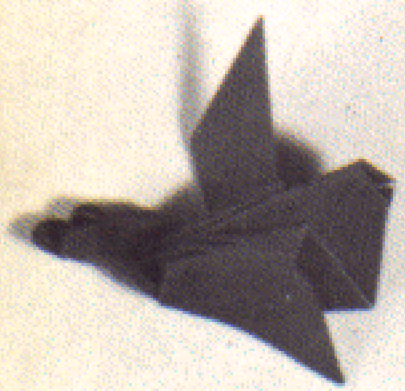
① Fold to center line to make crease.



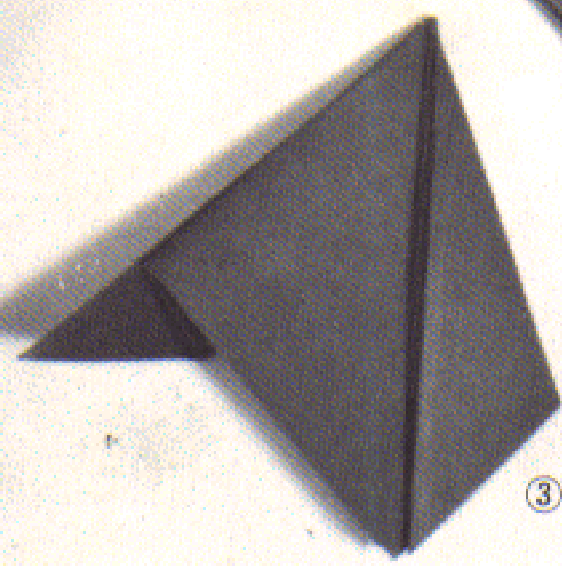
⑥ Make head. Fold wings up once.



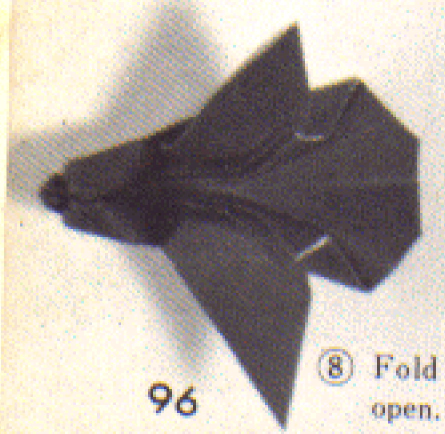
②



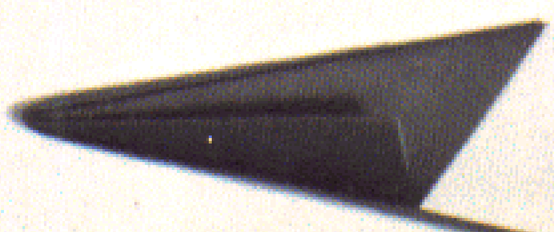
⑦ Fold down to give appearance of forward flight.



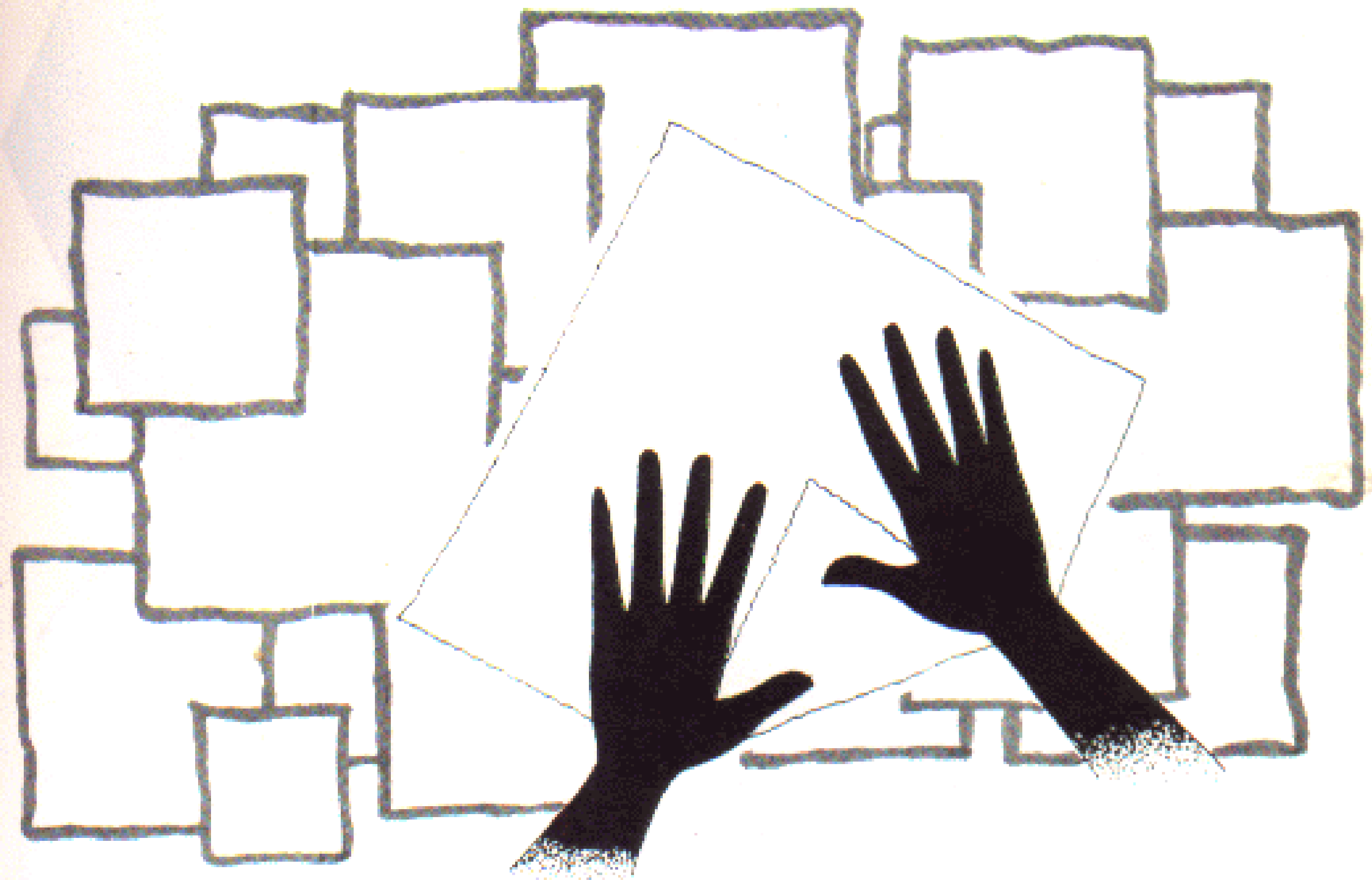
③ Turn over ②



⑧ Fold tail once and open.



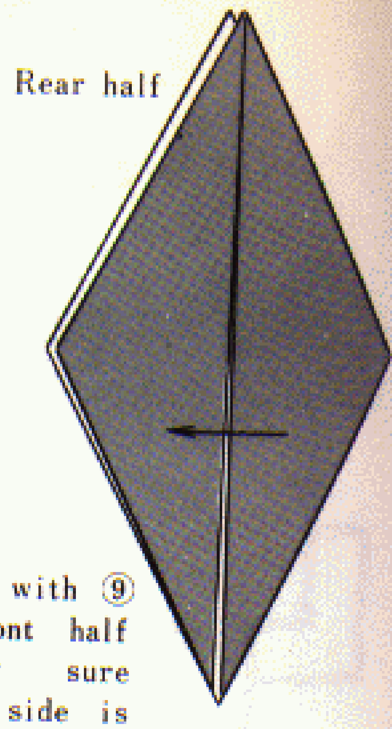
④ Fold ③ at center line.



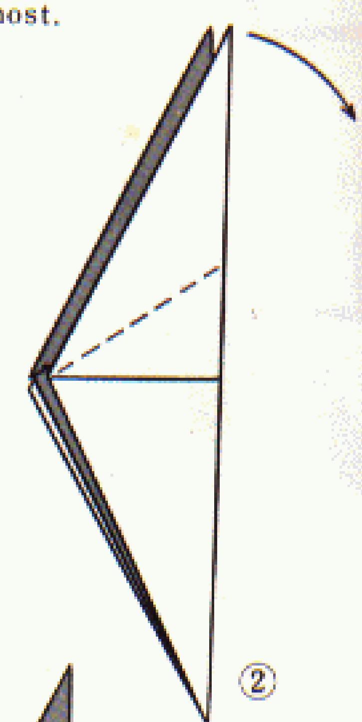
Contents

Horse

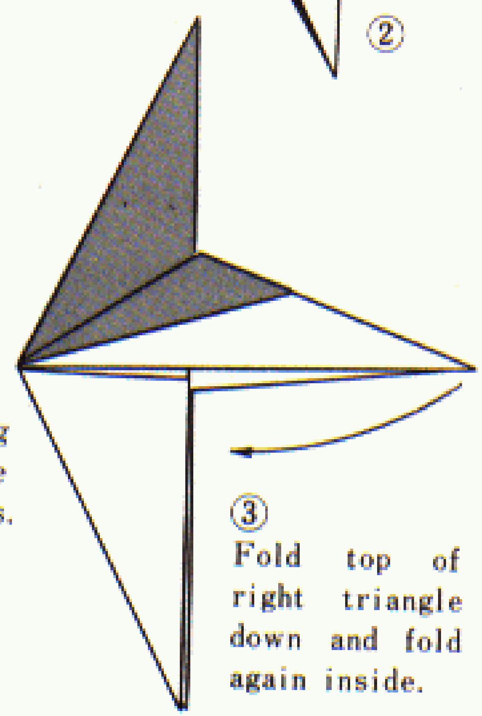
Rear half



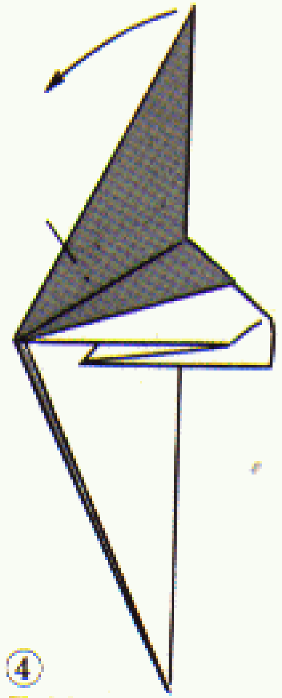
① Begin with ⑨ of front half making sure color side is uppermost.



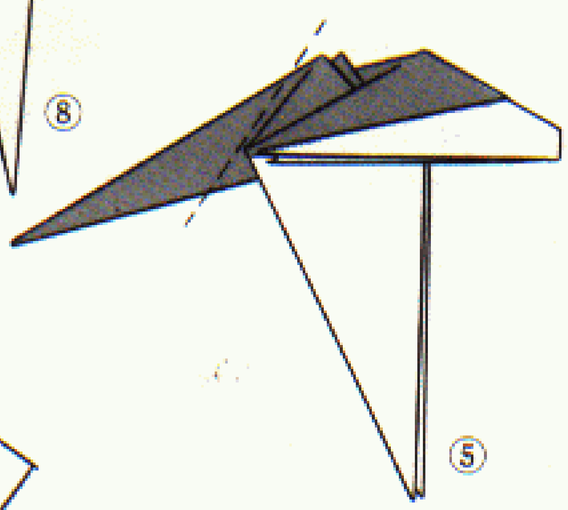
②



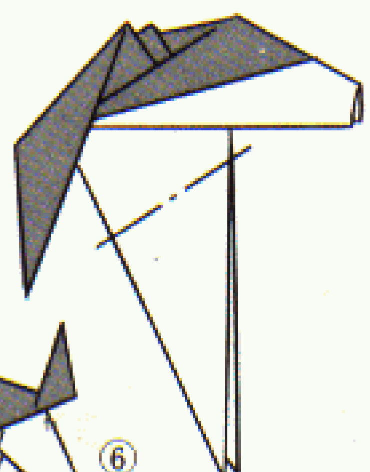
③ Fold top of right triangle down and fold again inside.



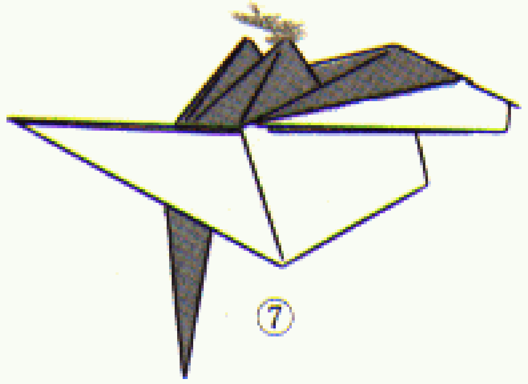
④ Fold top of left triangle down.



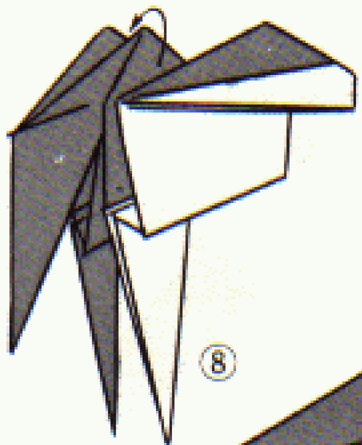
⑤



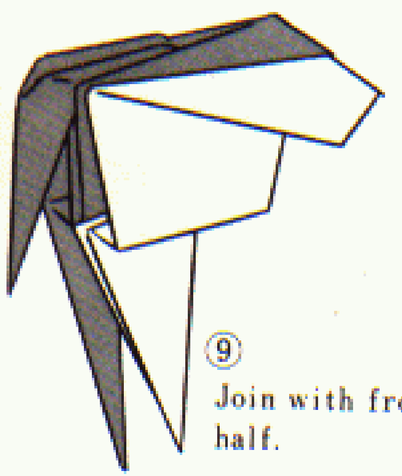
⑥ Fold legs making sure they are same length as front legs.



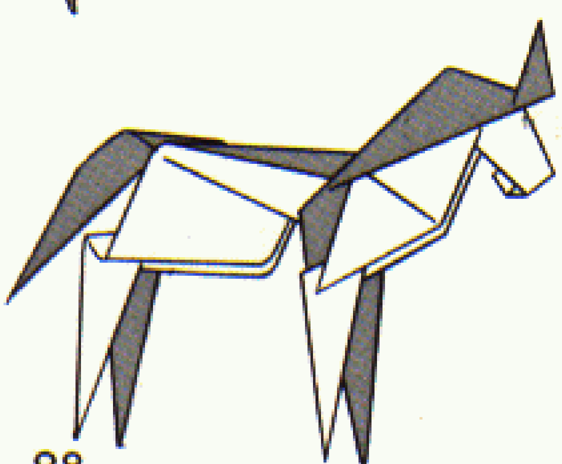
⑦



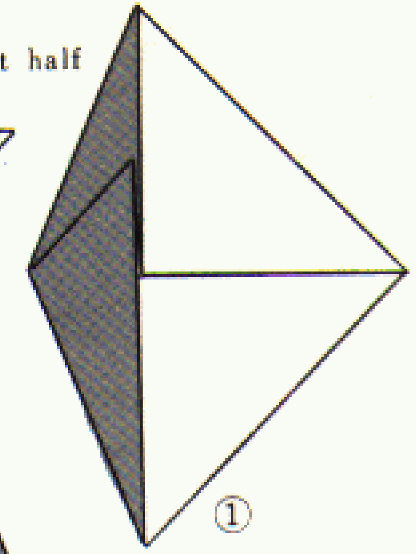
⑧



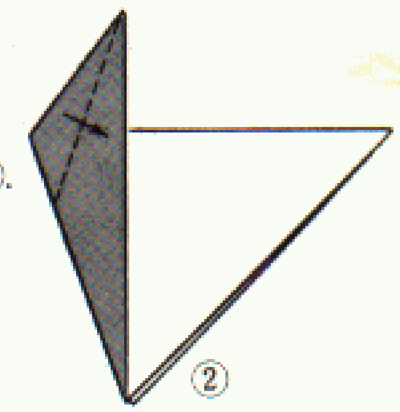
⑨ Join with front half.



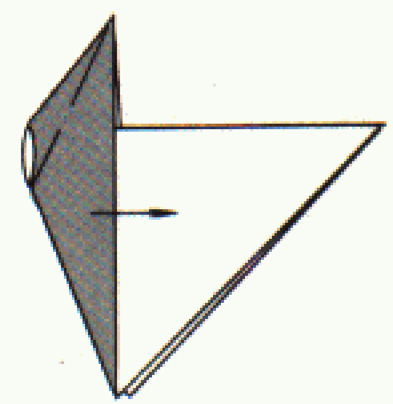
Front half



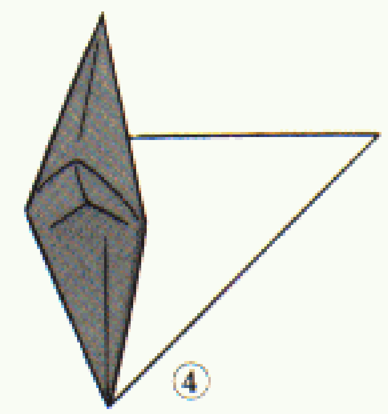
①



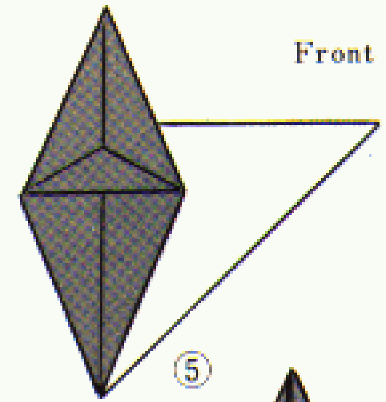
②



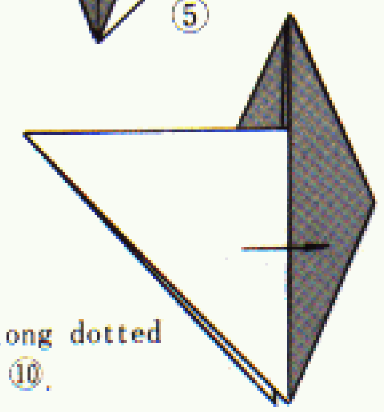
③ Open out left side and press flat against right side.



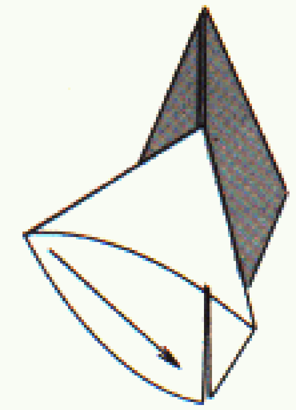
④



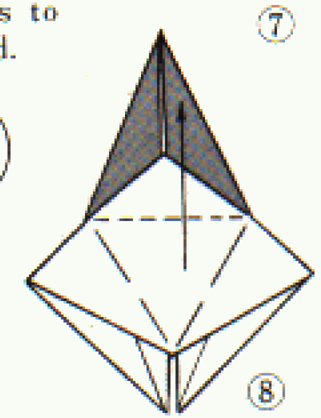
⑤



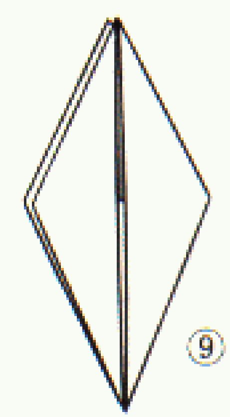
⑥ Turn over ⑤.



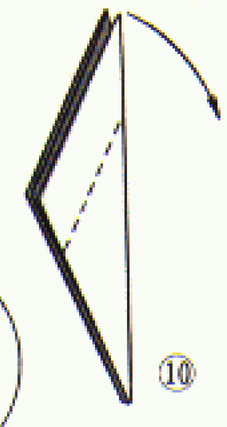
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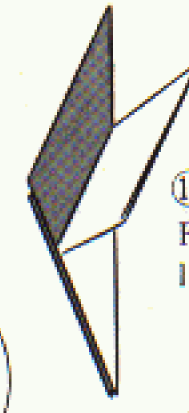
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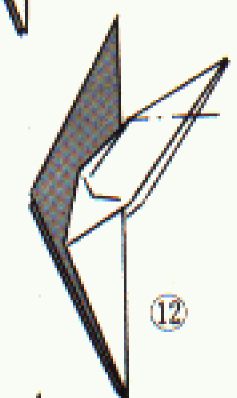
⑨



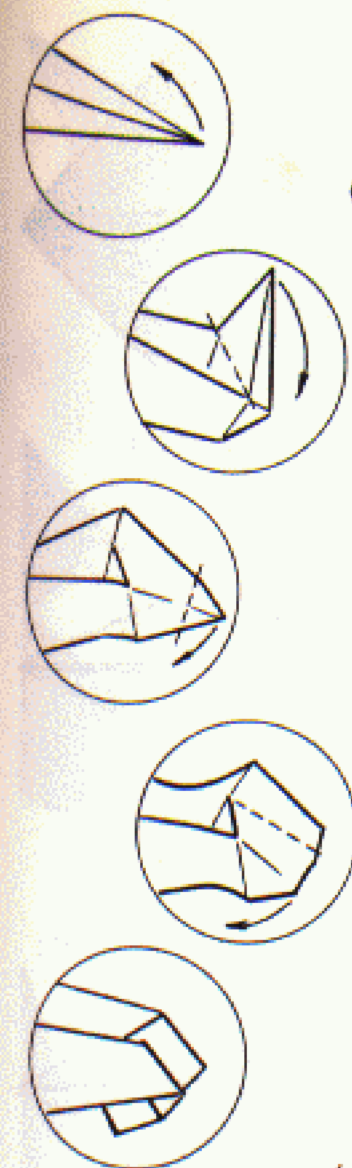
⑩



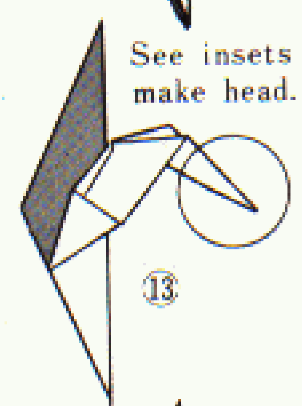
⑪ Fold along dotted line in ⑩.



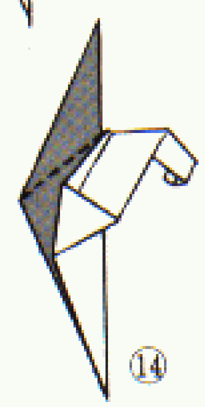
⑫



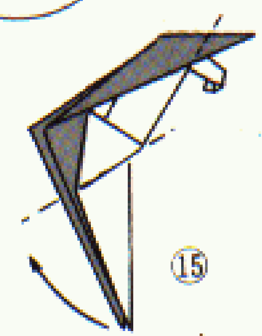
See insets to make head.



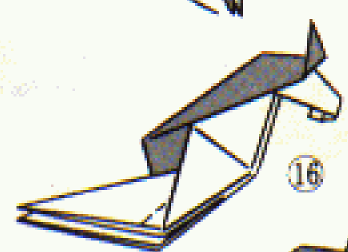
⑬



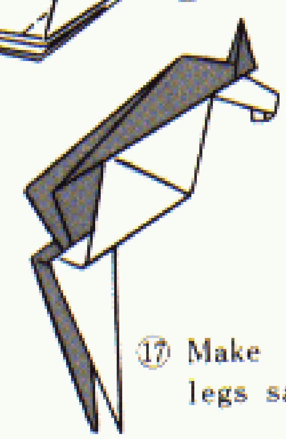
⑭



⑮

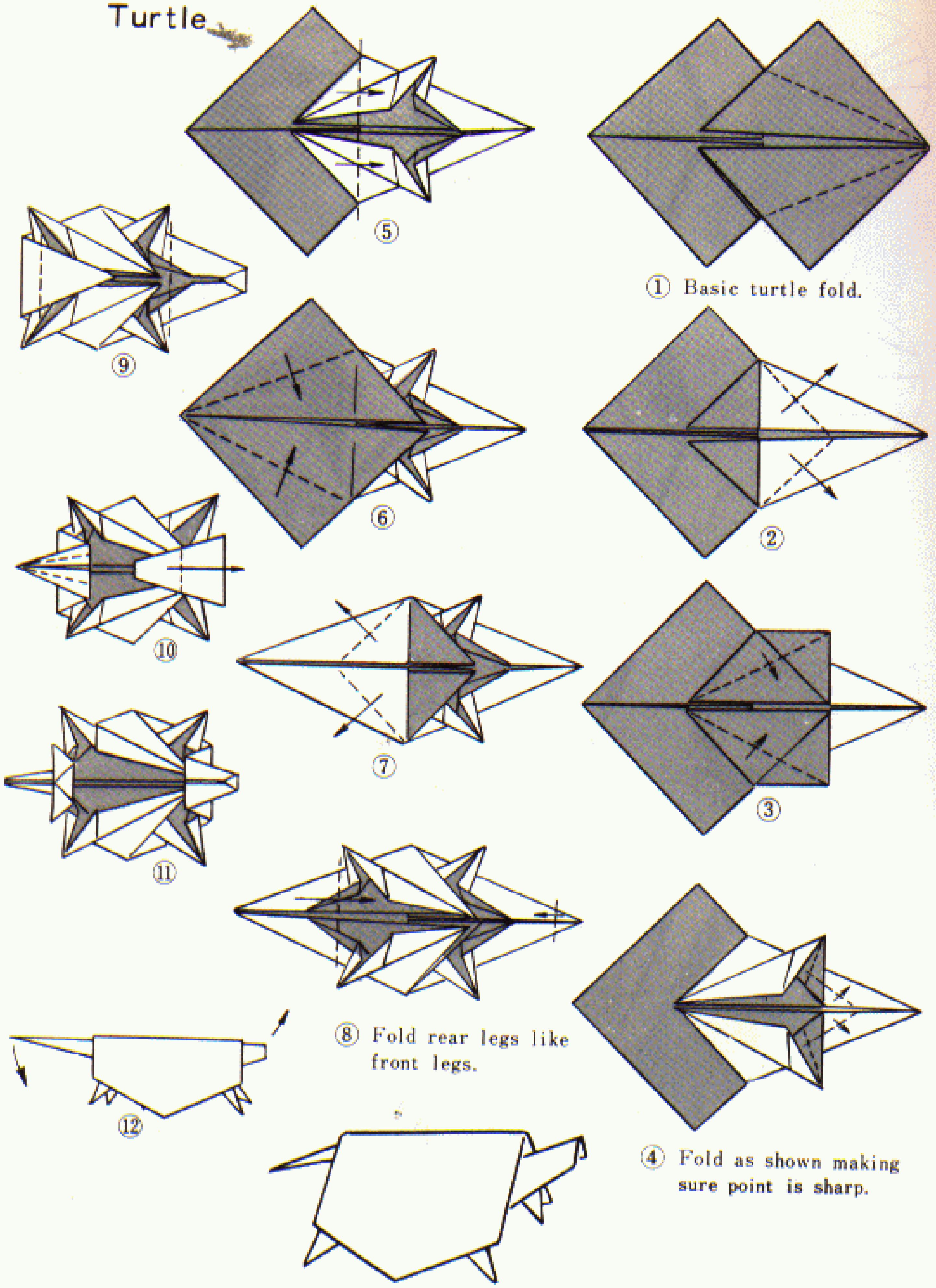


⑯



⑰ Make sure both legs same length.

Turtle

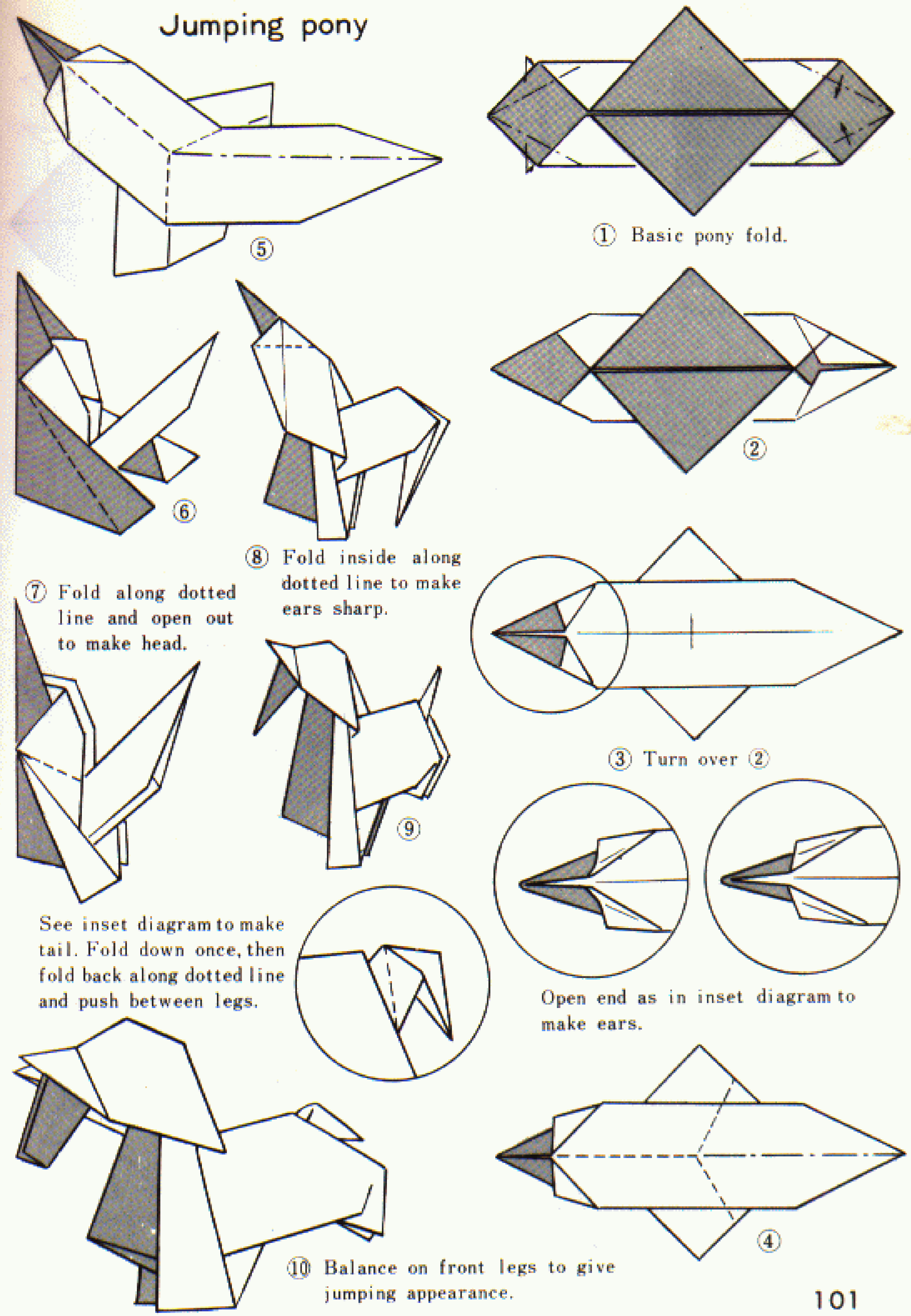


① Basic turtle fold.

④ Fold as shown making sure point is sharp.

⑧ Fold rear legs like front legs.

Jumping pony



① Basic pony fold.

③ Turn over ②

Open end as in inset diagram to make ears.

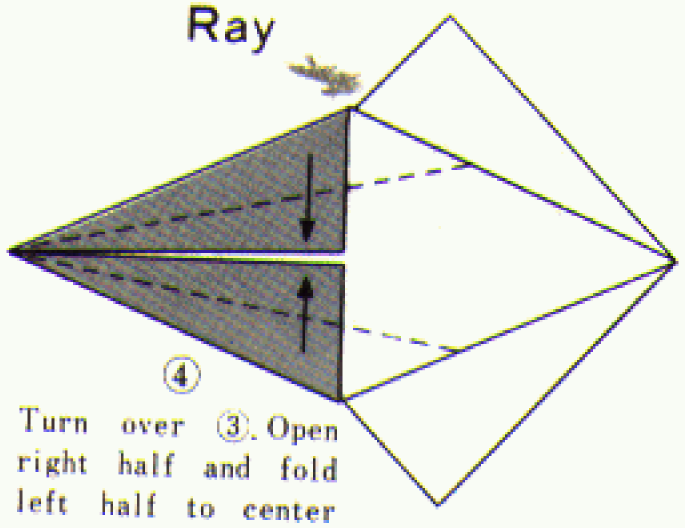
⑦ Fold along dotted line and open out to make head.

⑧ Fold inside along dotted line to make ears sharp.

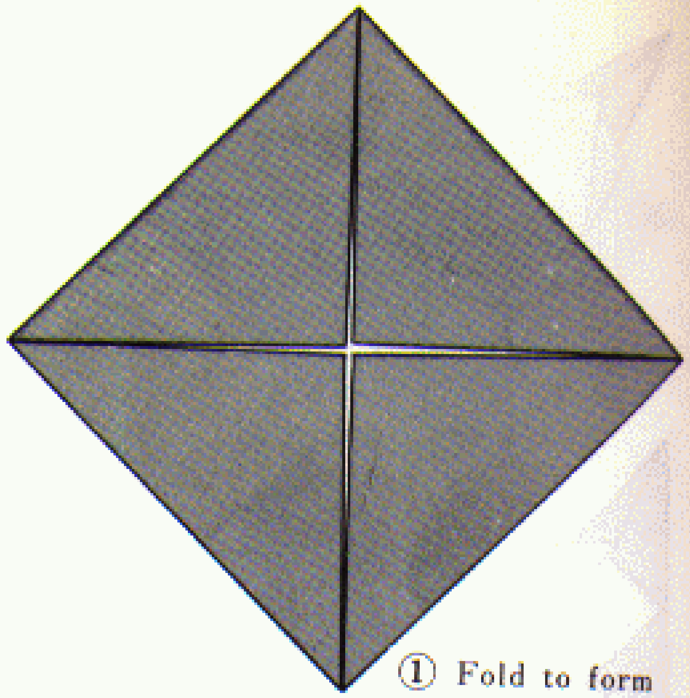
See inset diagram to make tail. Fold down once, then fold back along dotted line and push between legs.

⑩ Balance on front legs to give jumping appearance.

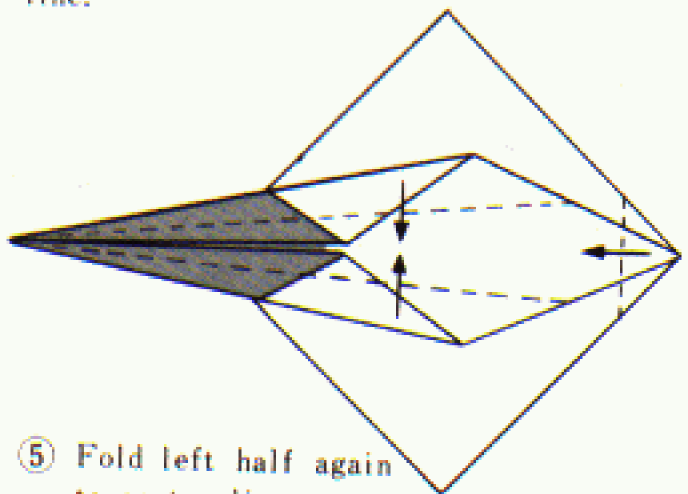
Ray



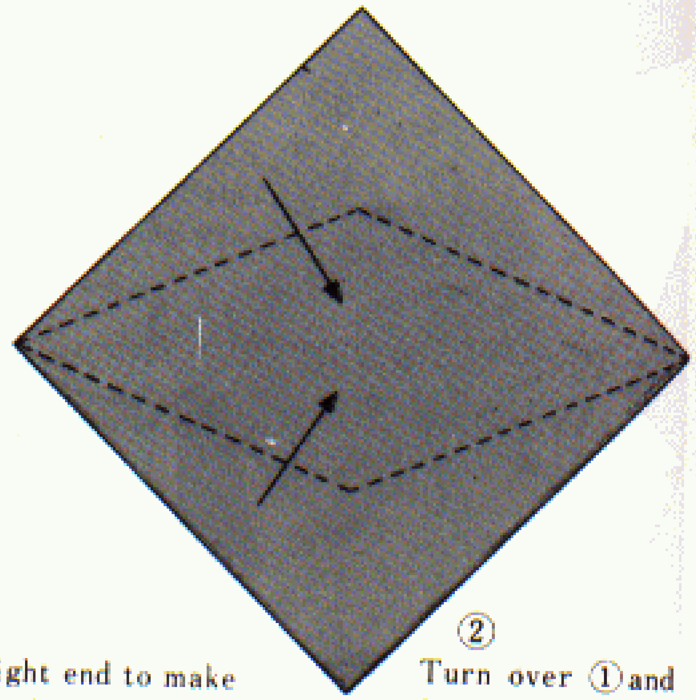
④ Turn over ③. Open right half and fold left half to center line.



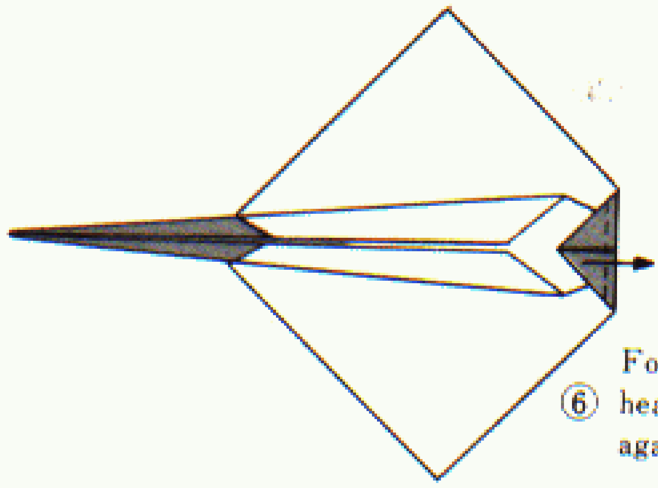
① Fold to form square.



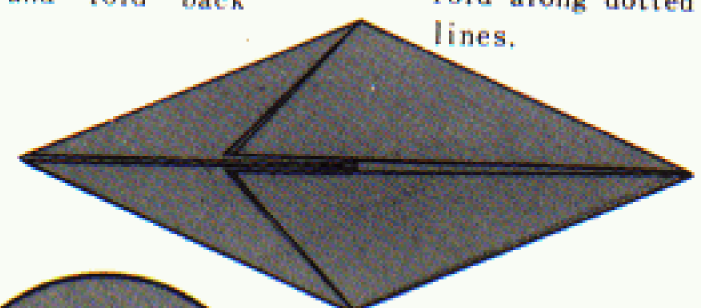
⑤ Fold left half again to center line.

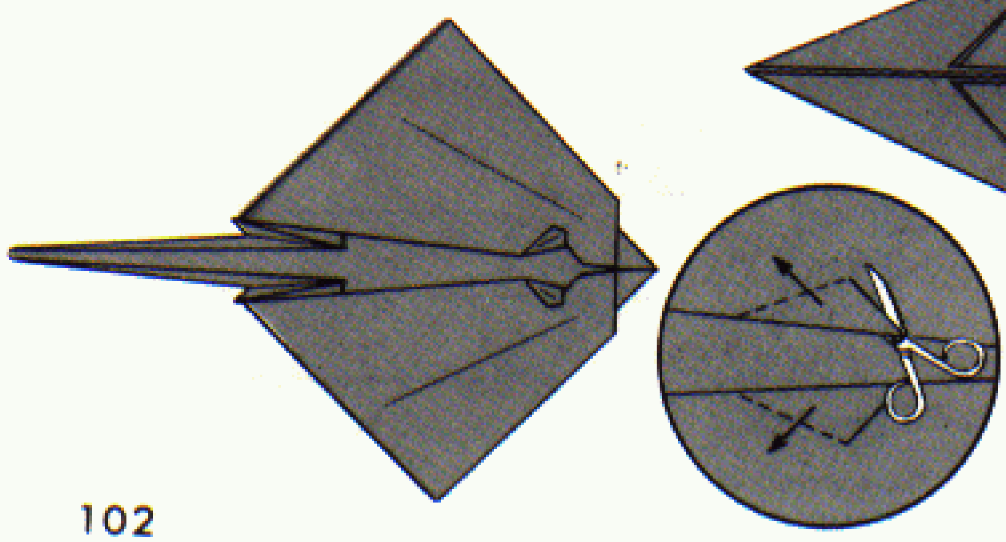


② Turn over ①and fold along dotted lines.



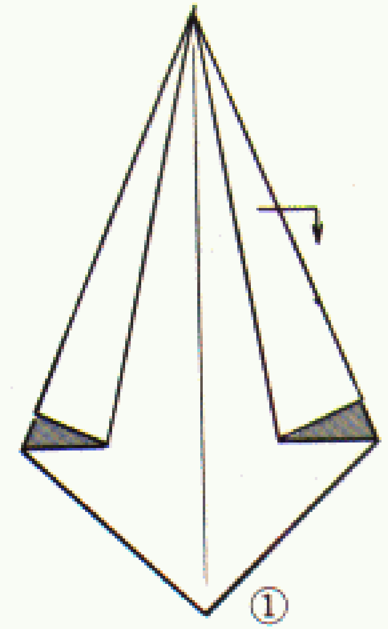
⑥ Fold right end to make head and fold back again.



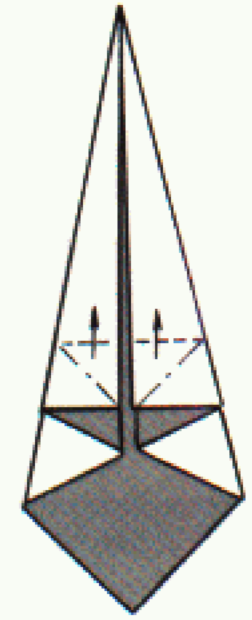


⑦ Turn over ⑥. Cut as shown to make eyes.

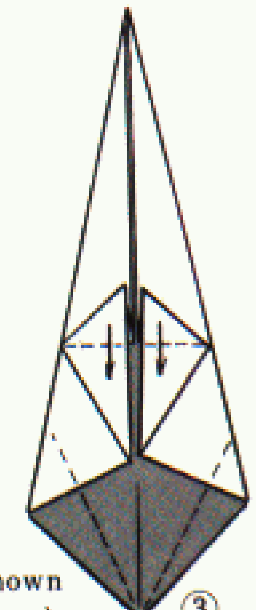
Dinosaur



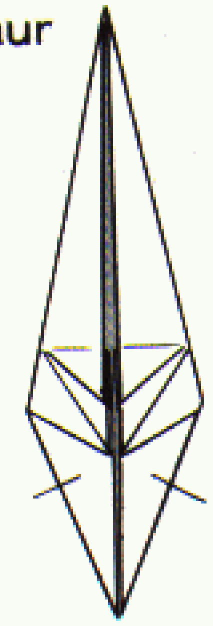
①



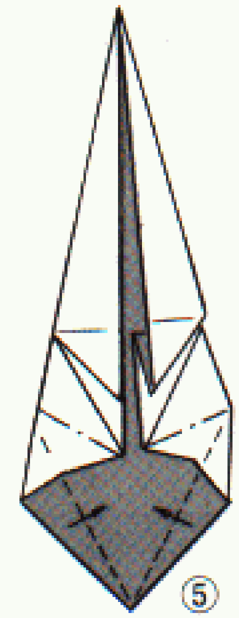
② Turn over ①. Fold both sides to center line.



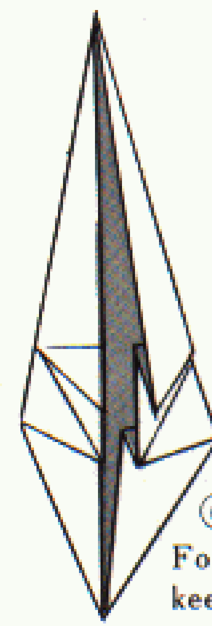
③



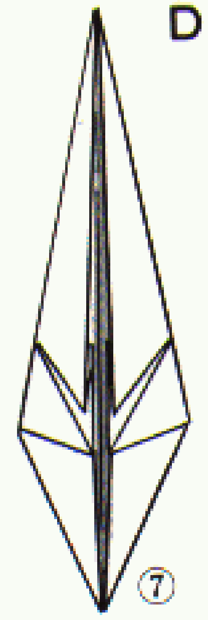
④ Fold open section at bottom inside.



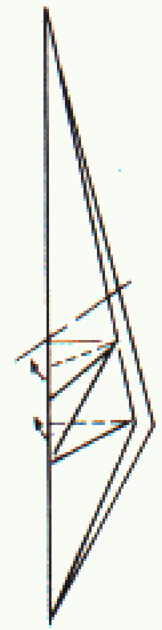
⑤



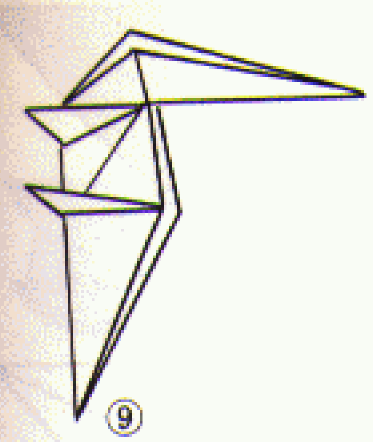
⑥ Fold as shown keeping top sharp.



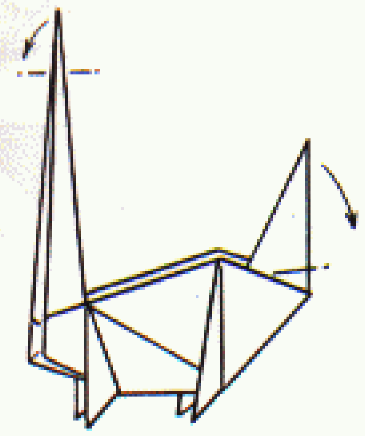
⑦



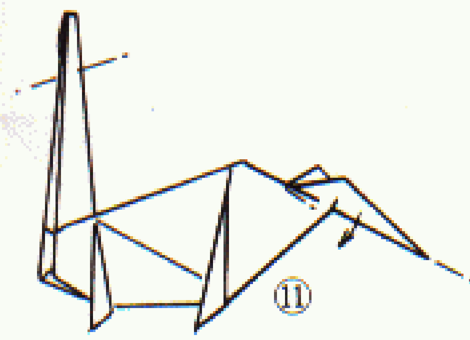
⑧ Open flaps at side to form legs.



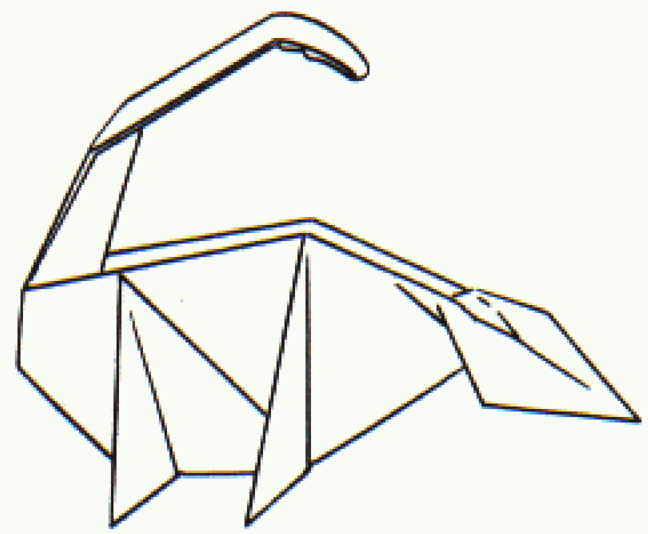
⑨ Make sure legs are parallel.



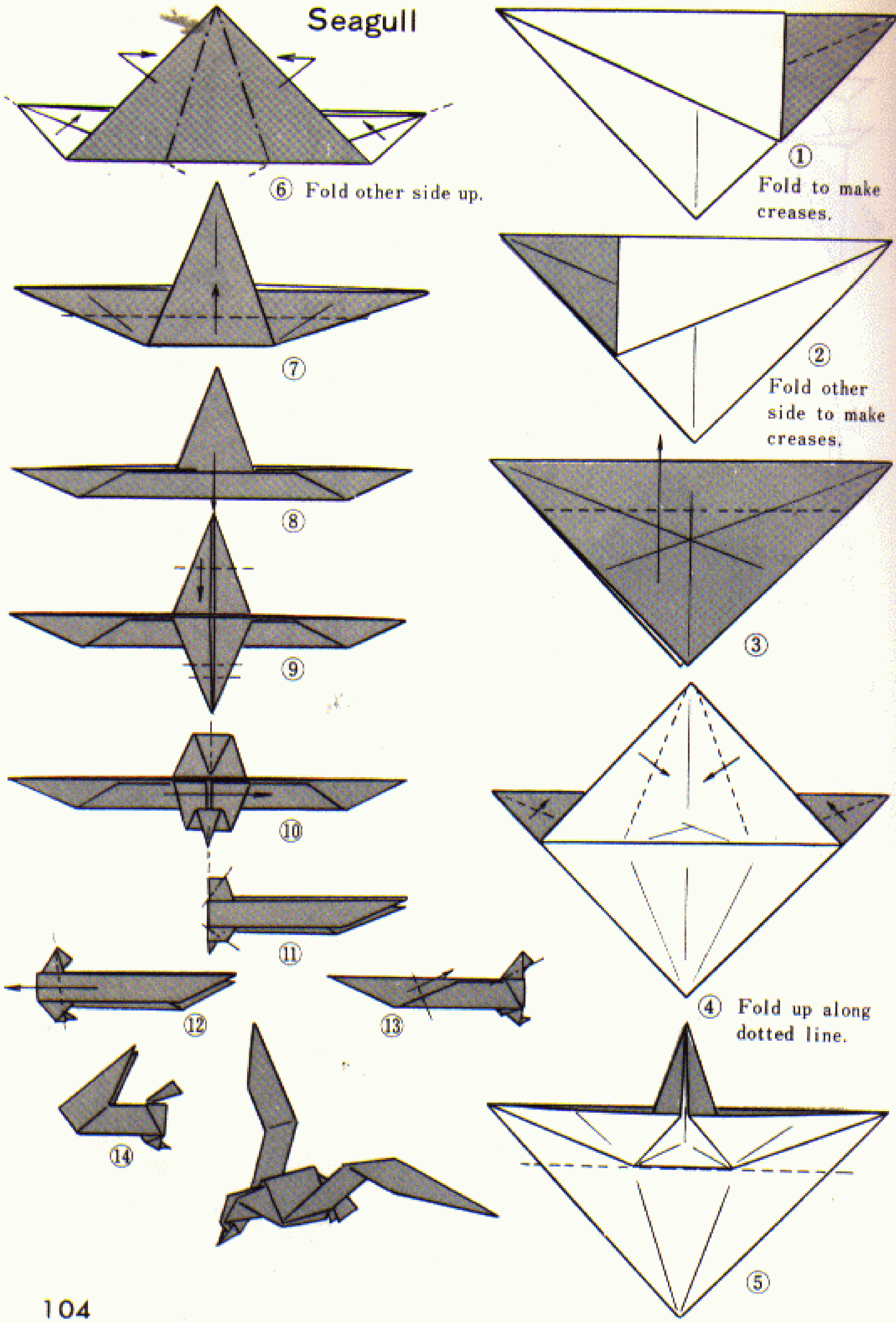
⑩ Make neck flat.



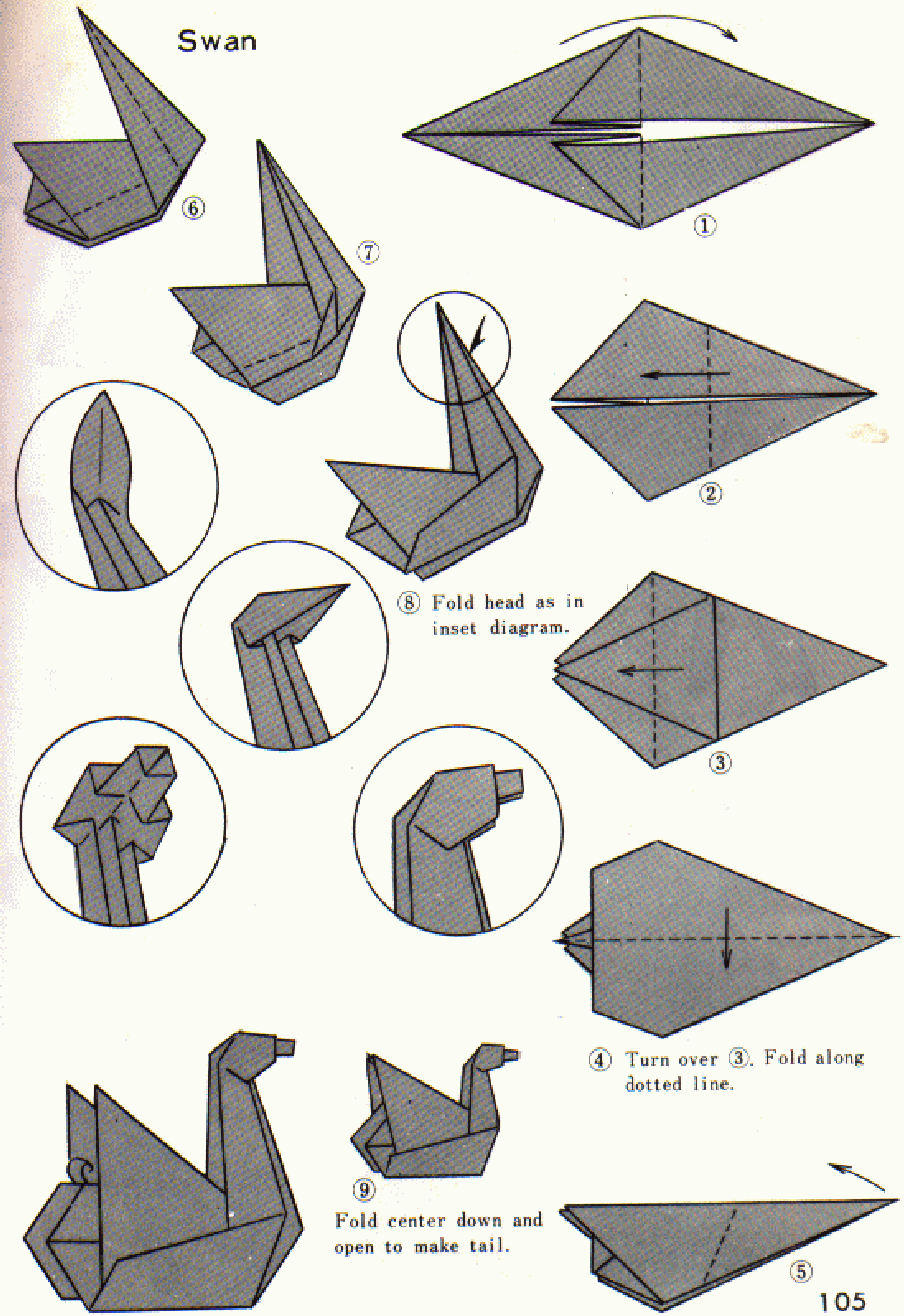
⑪



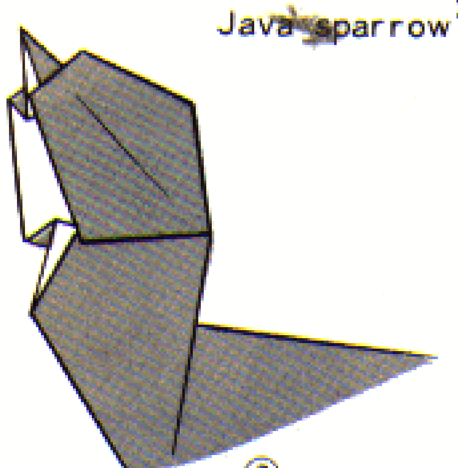
Seagull

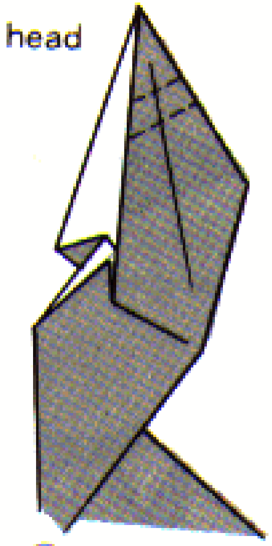


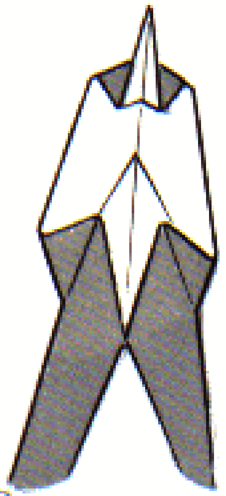
Swan

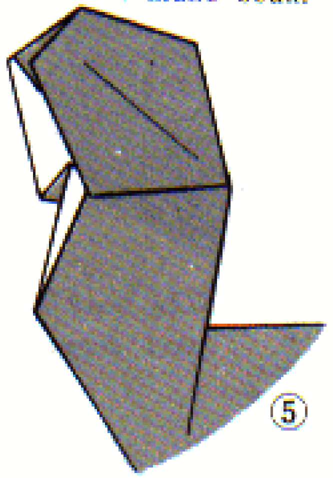


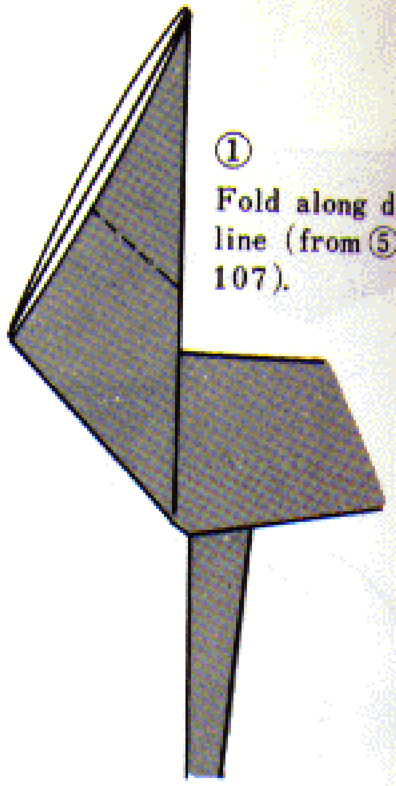
Method of making Java sparrow's head

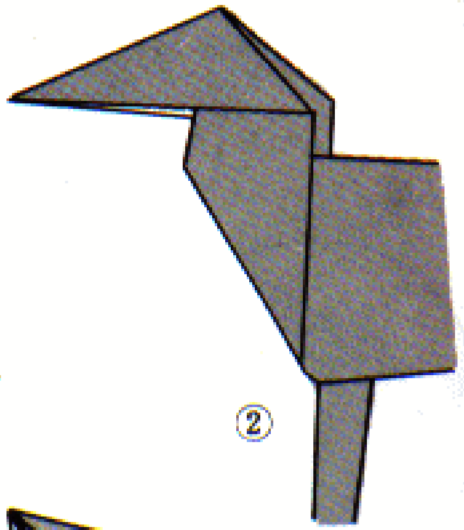

⑥


④ Fold along dotted lines to make beak.

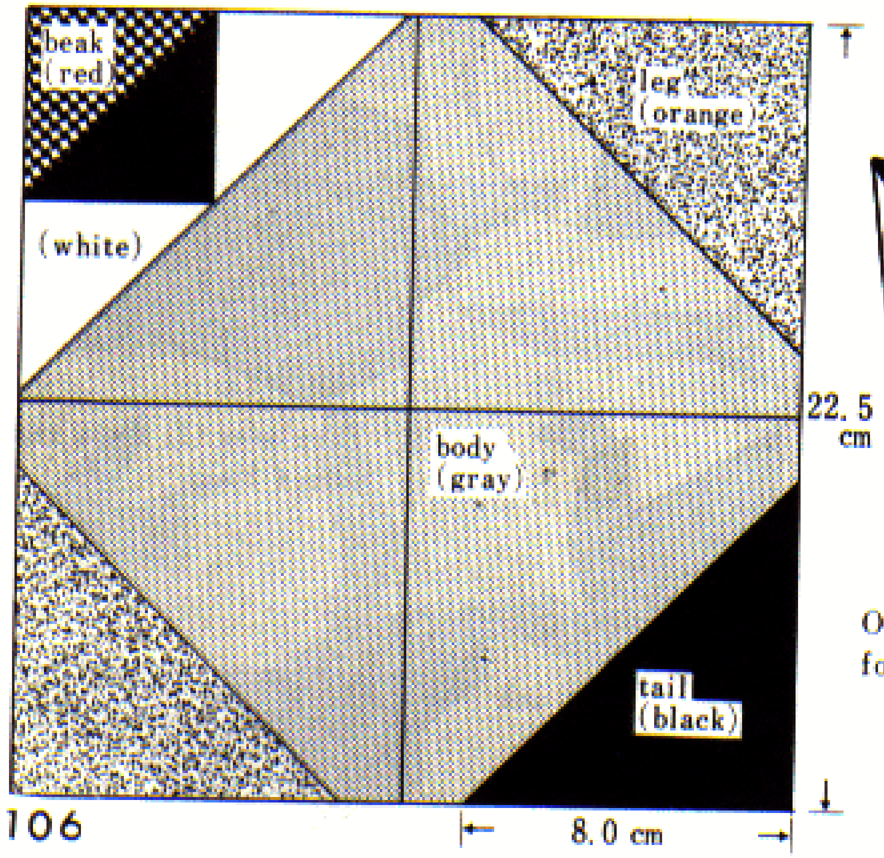

⑦ Underside of head.

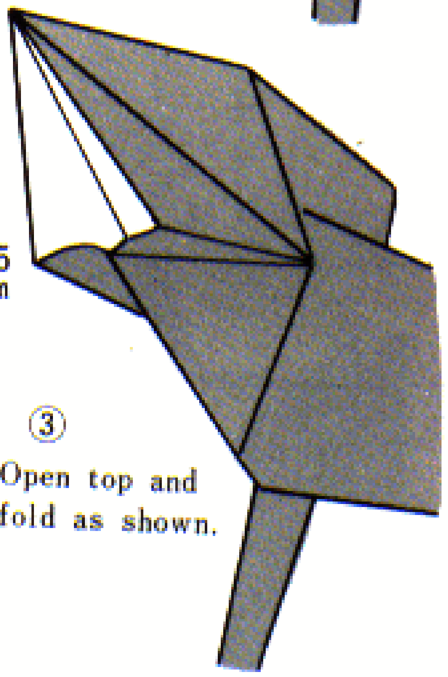

⑤


① Fold along dotted line (from ⑤ page 107).

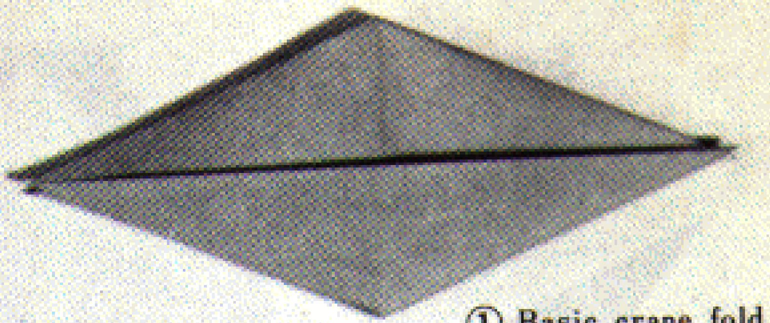

②

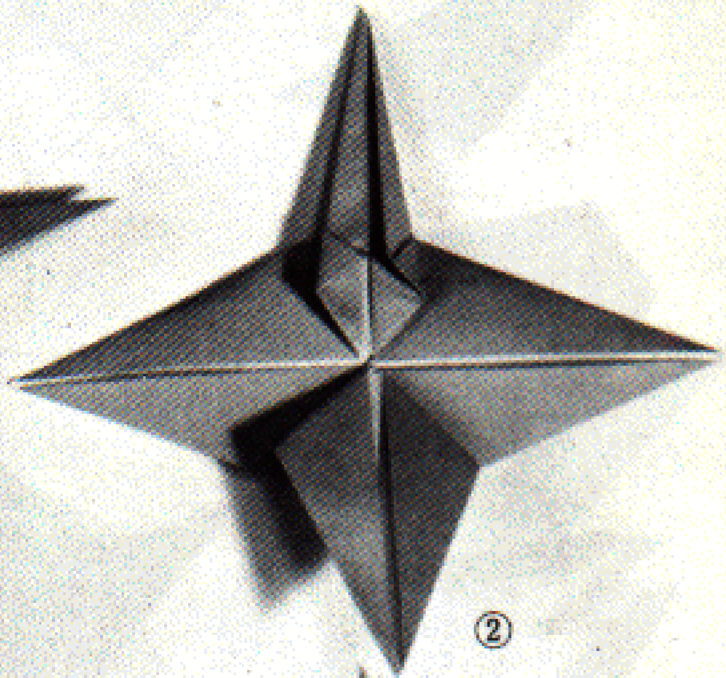
To make colorful Java sparrow use colors suggested in diagram.

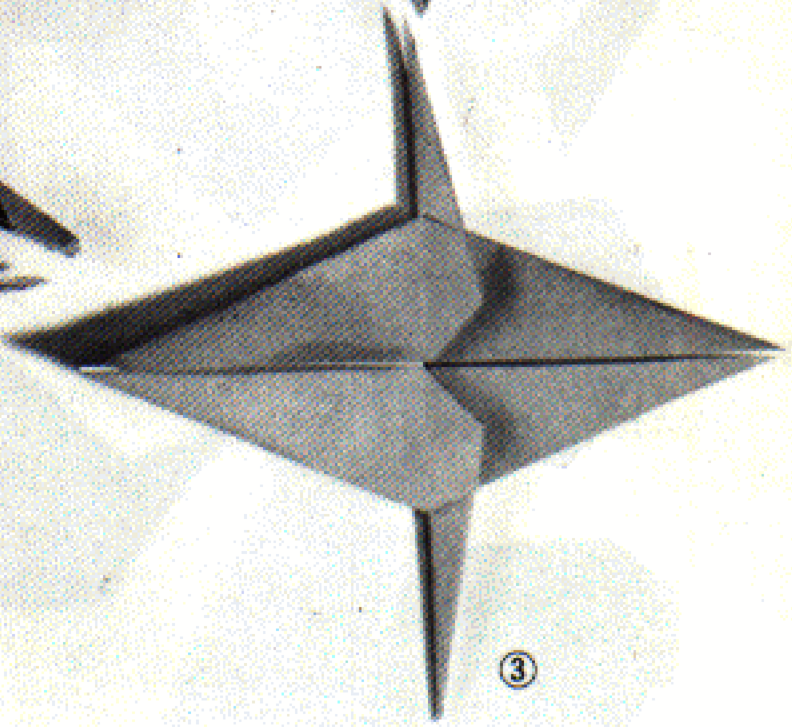


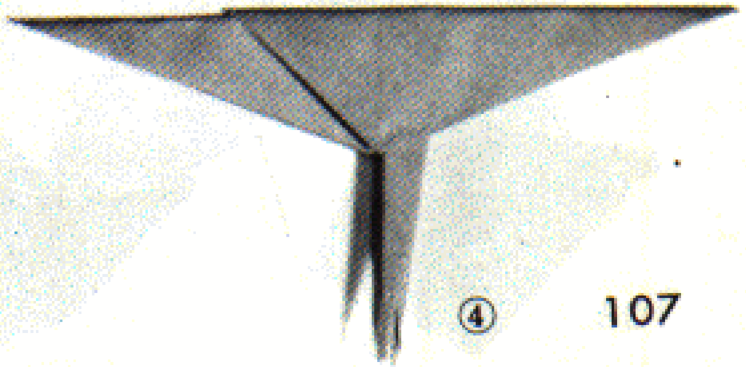

③ Open top and fold as shown.

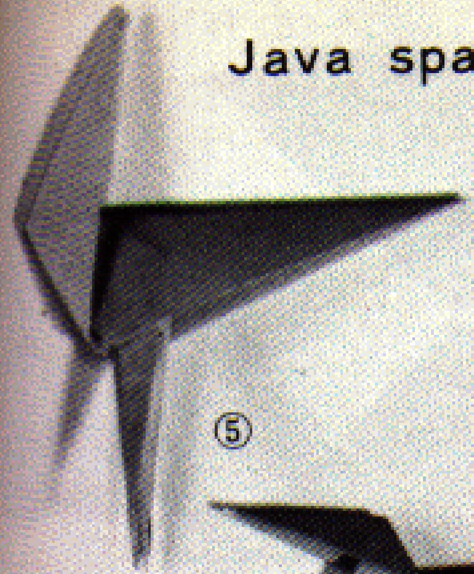
Java sparrow

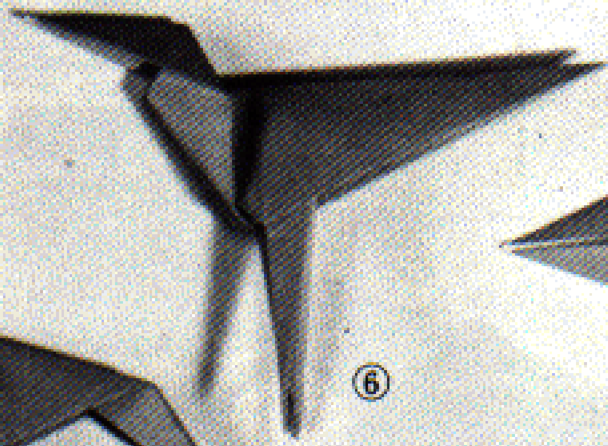

① Basic crane fold.

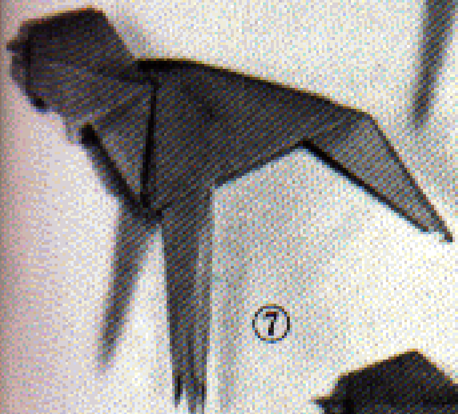

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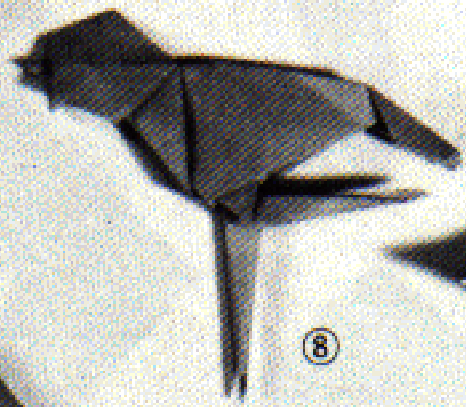

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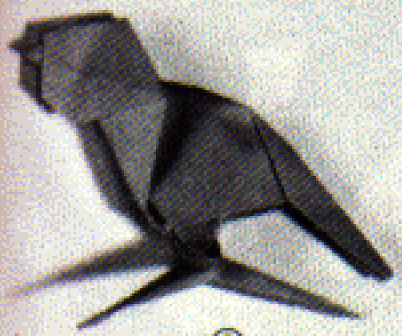

④

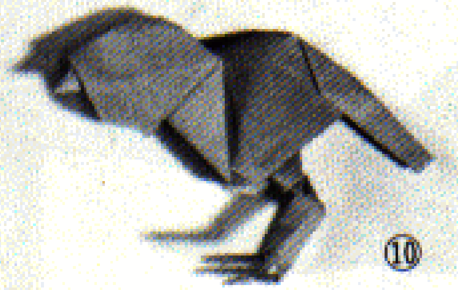

⑤


⑥


⑦

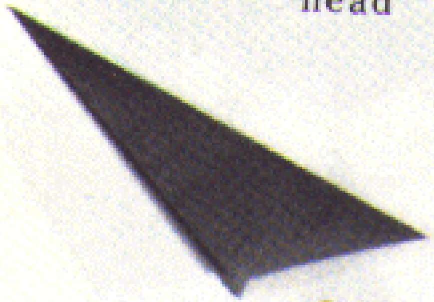

⑧


⑨

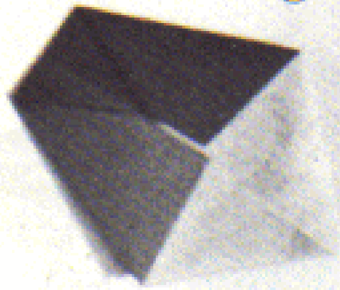

⑩

Snail

Method of making head



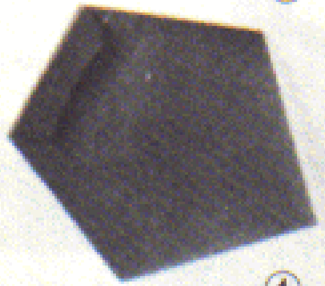
①



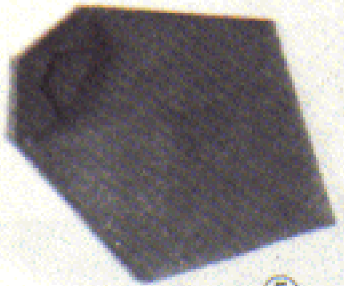
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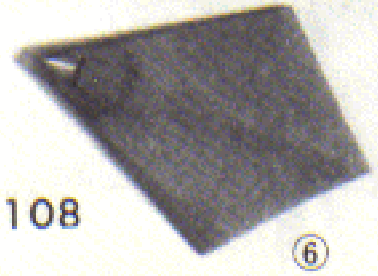
③



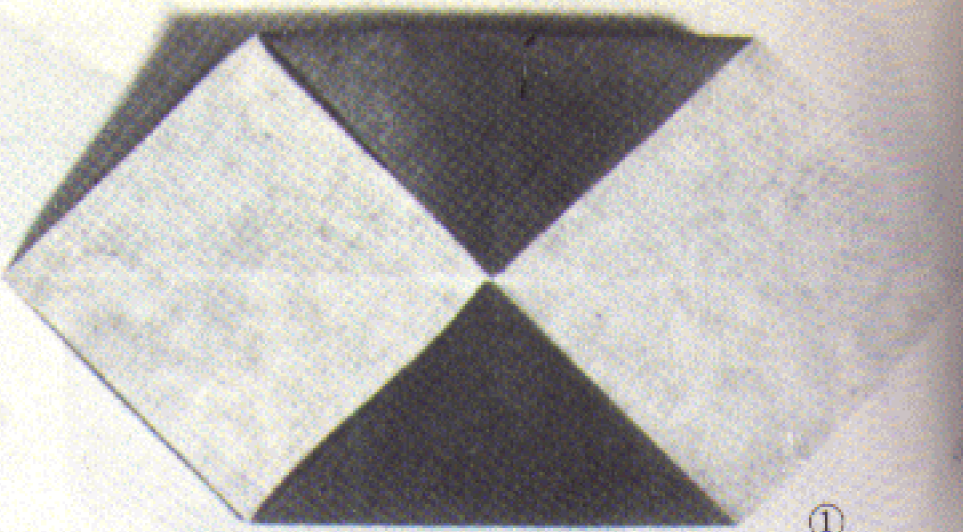
④



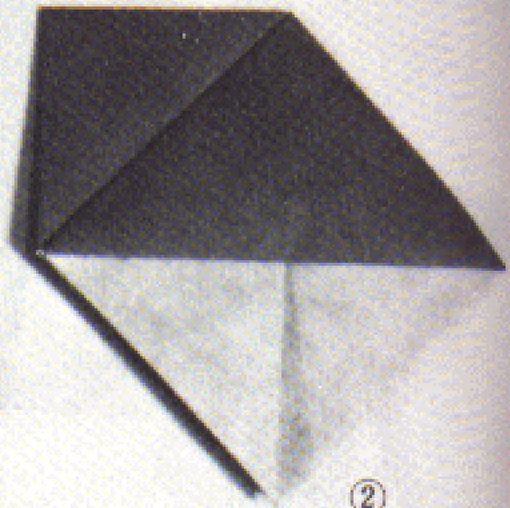
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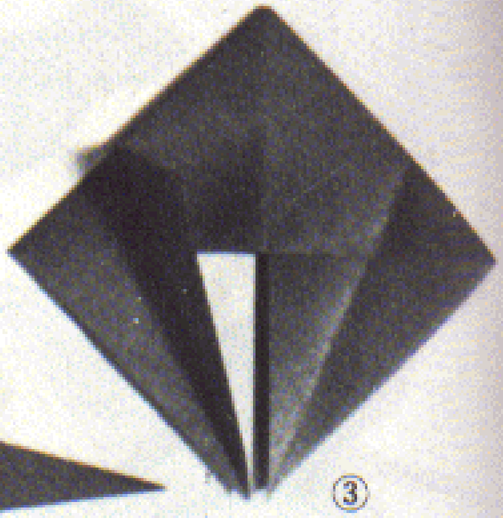
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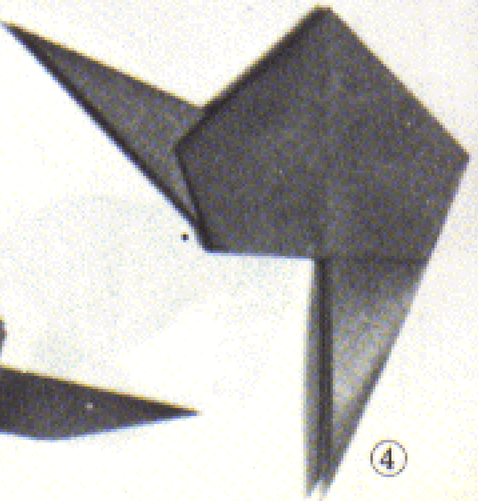
①



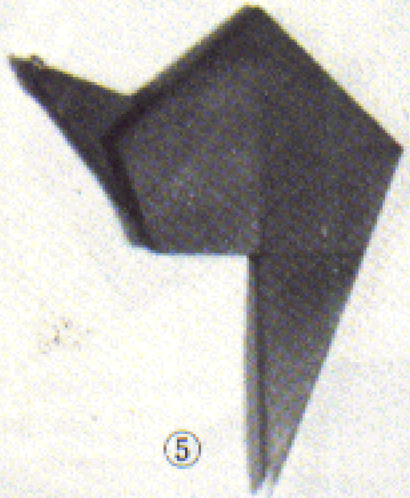
②



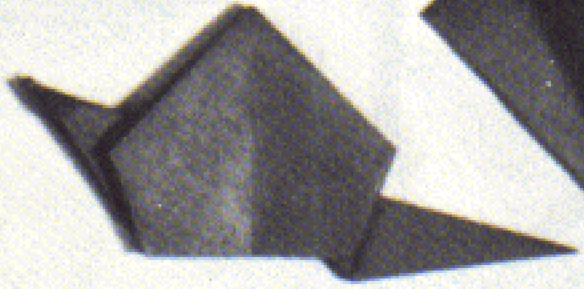
③



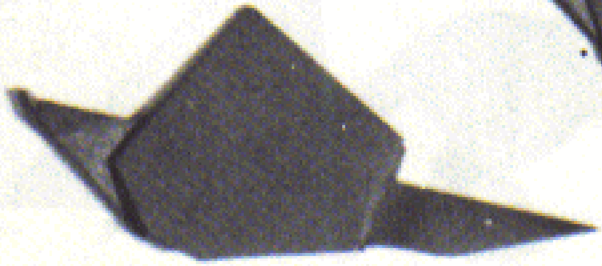
④



⑤

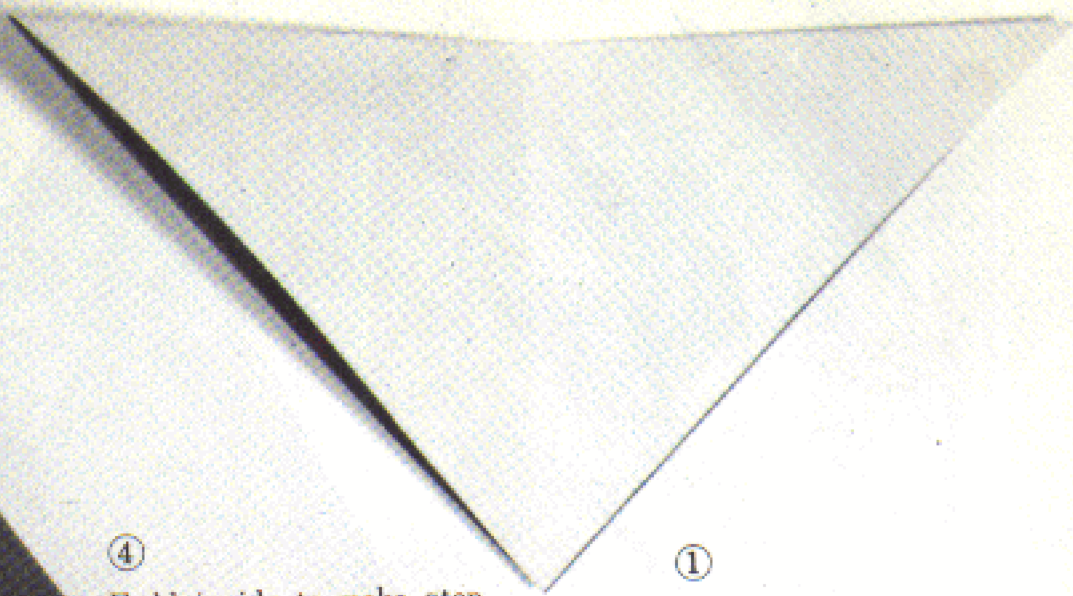


⑥

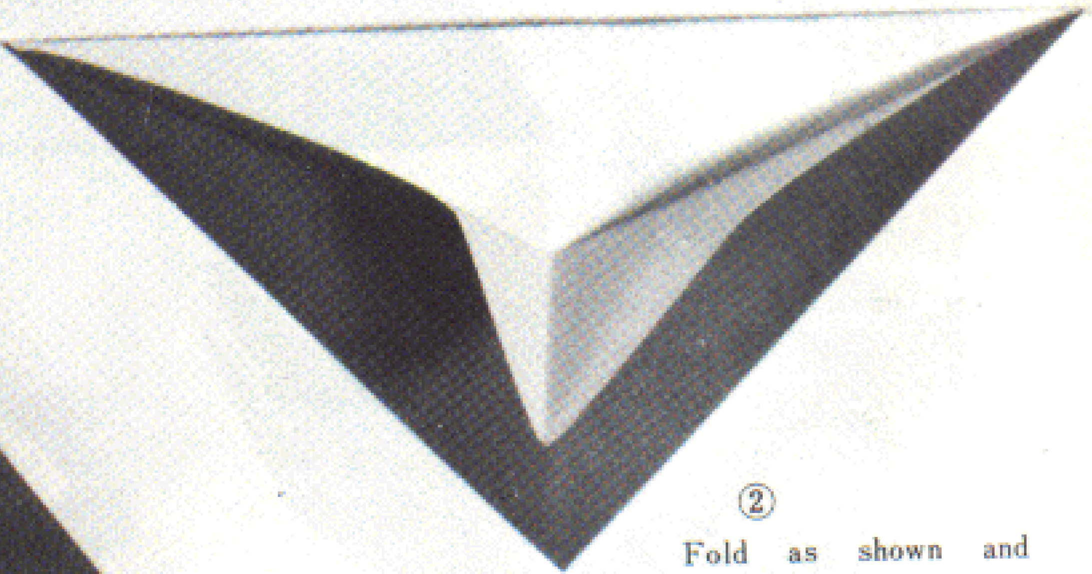


⑦

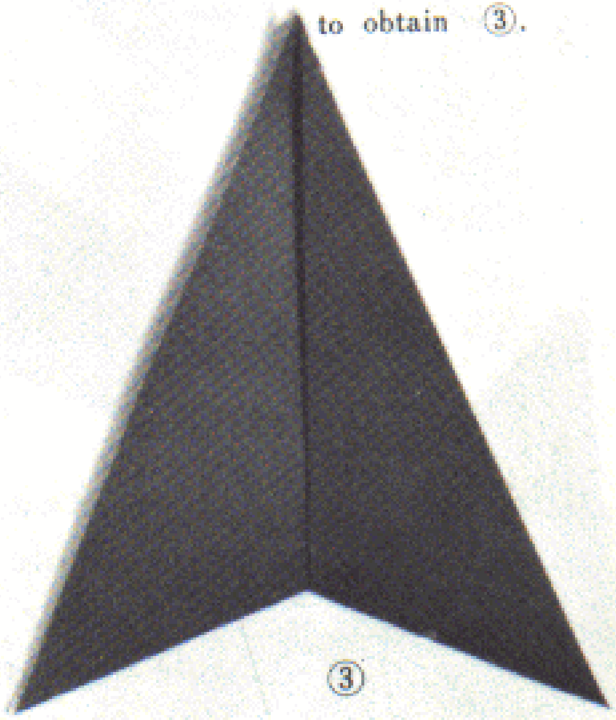
Bird in flight.



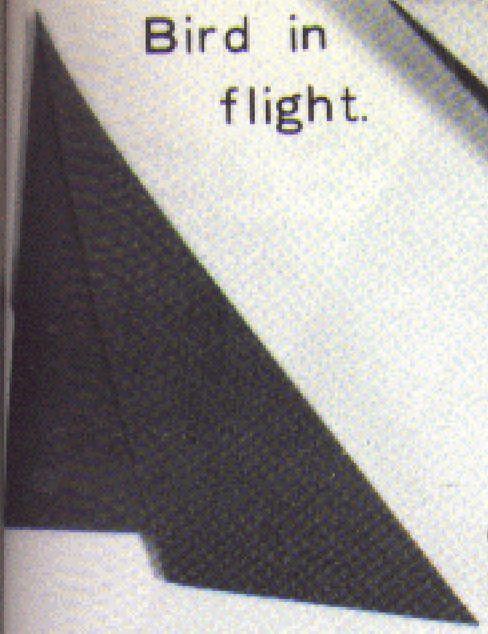
①



② Fold as shown and then fold toward center to obtain ③.



③



④ Fold inside to make step at bottom.

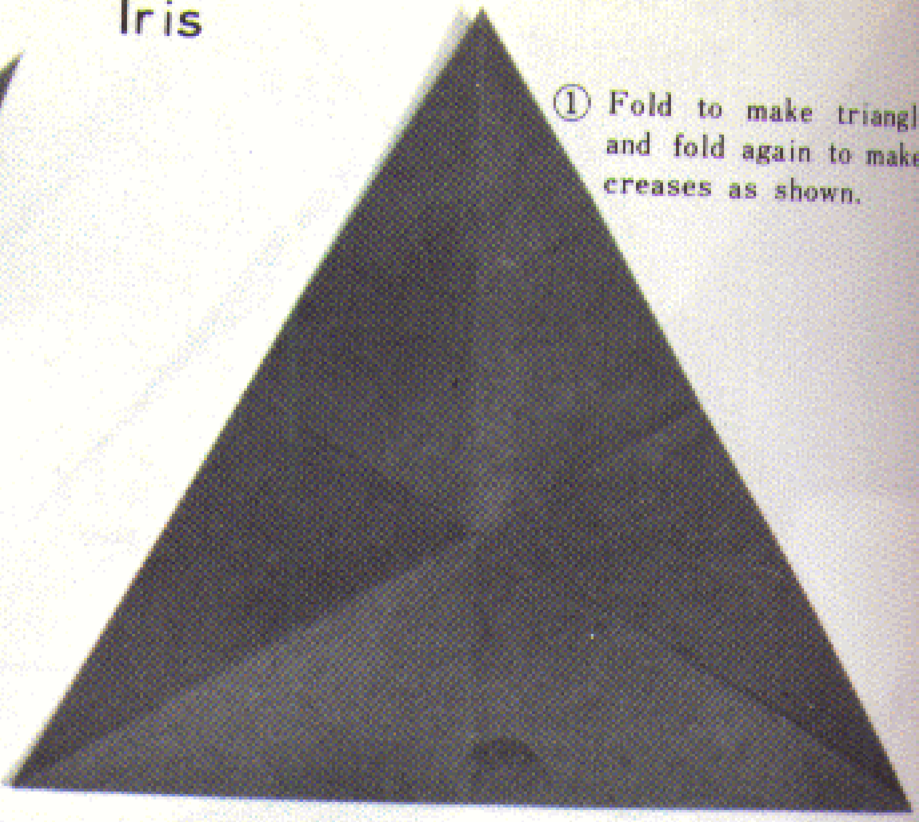


⑤ Open left section and fold head as shown.

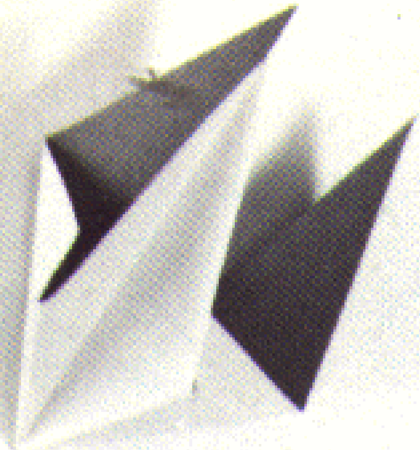


⑥

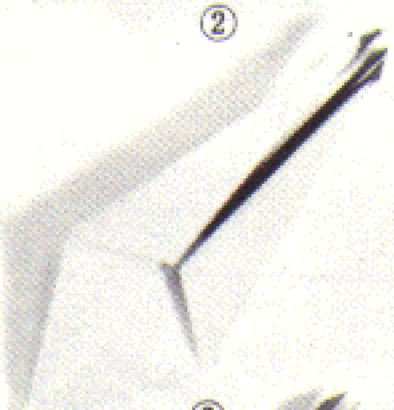
Iris



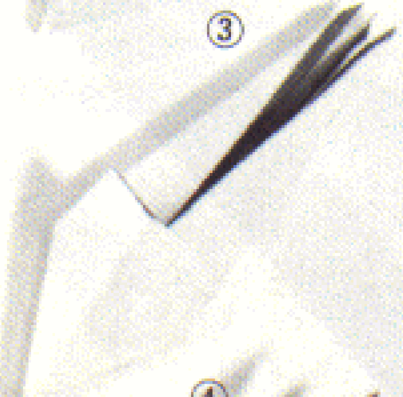
① Fold to make triangle and fold again to make creases as shown.



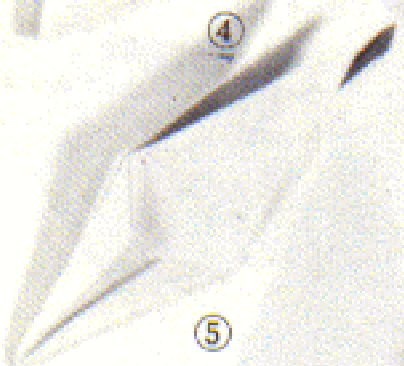
②



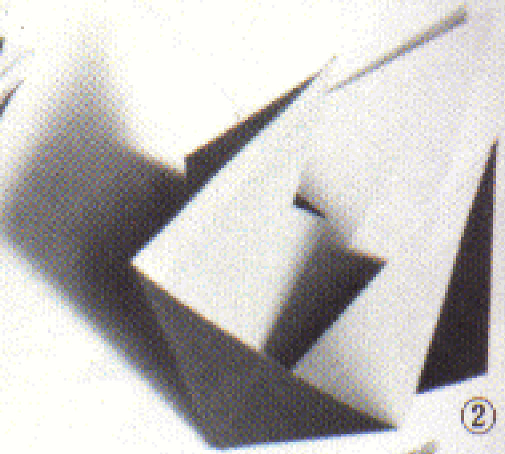
③



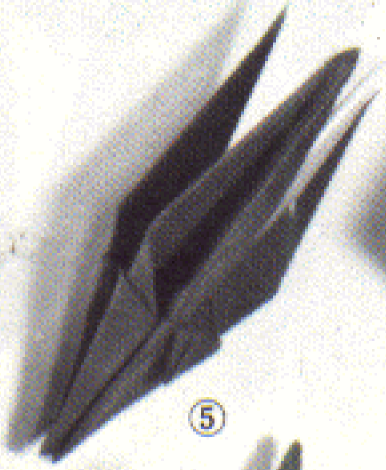
④



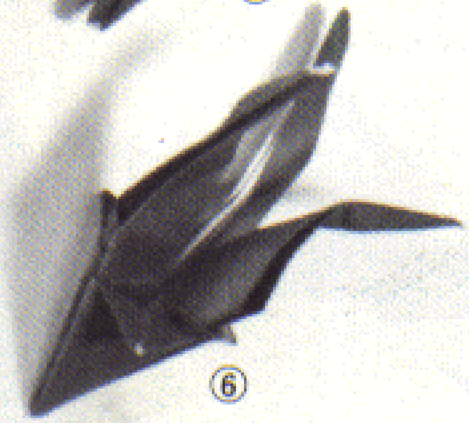
⑤



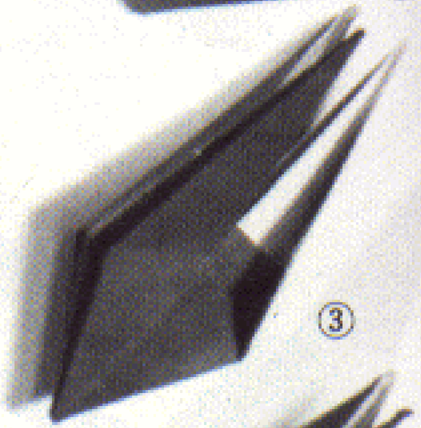
②



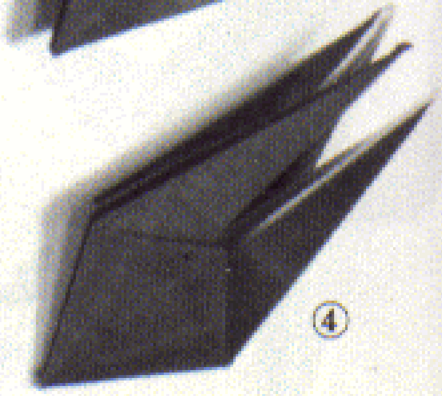
⑤



⑥



③

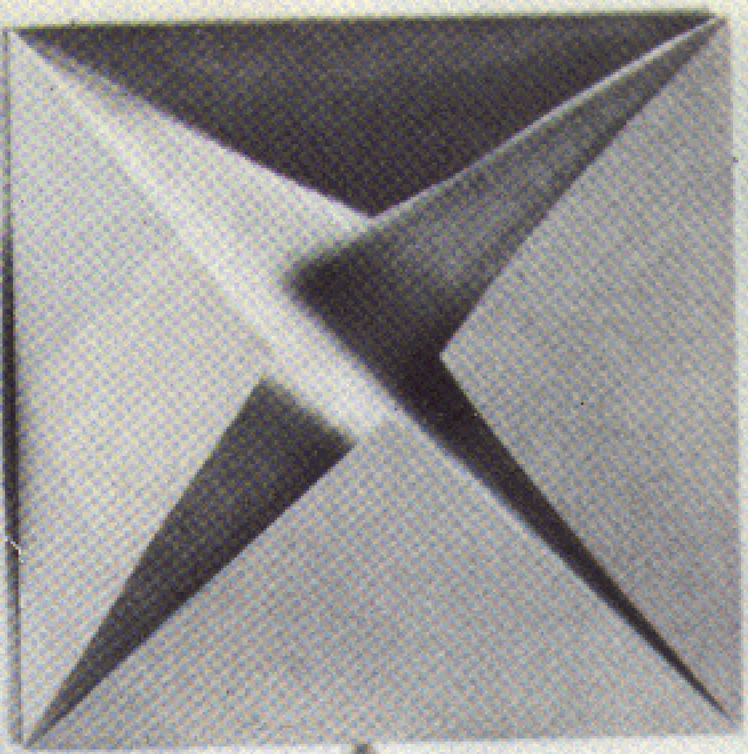


④

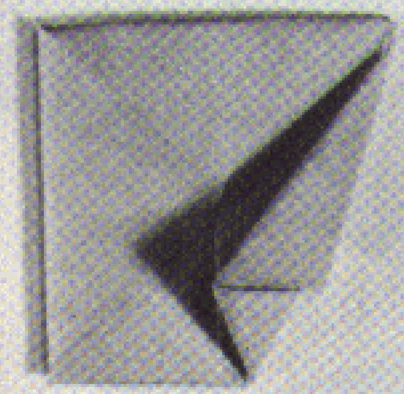


Make two, one with color side uppermost and other with plain side uppermost. Put one inside the other.

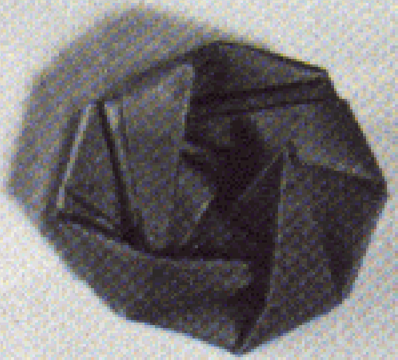
Water lily



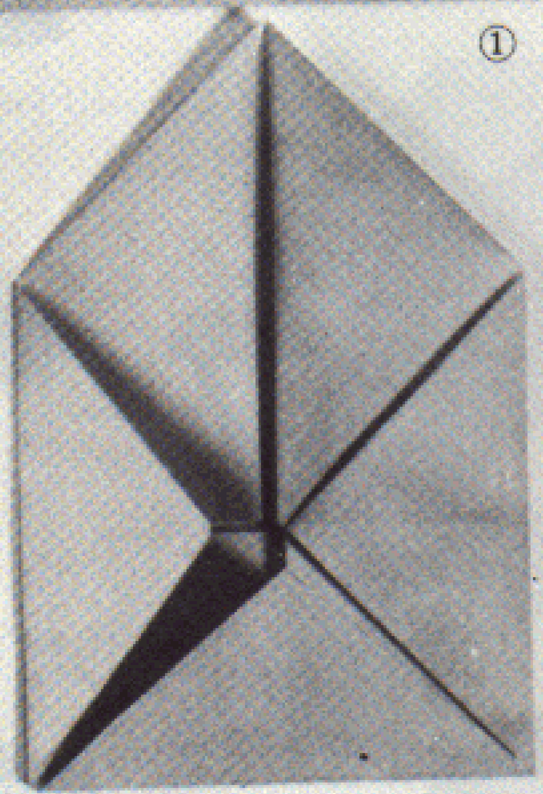
①



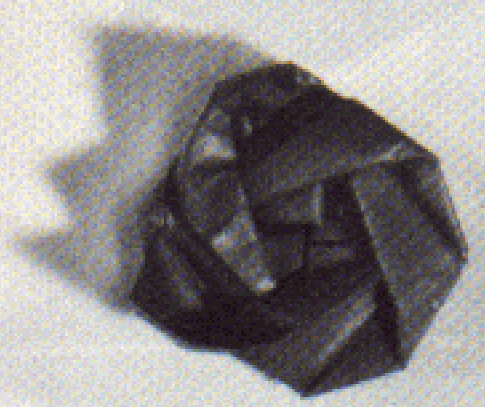
④ Turn over ③



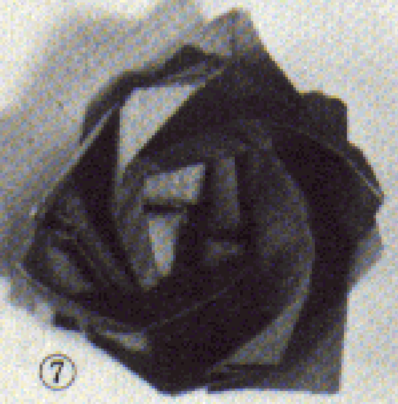
⑤



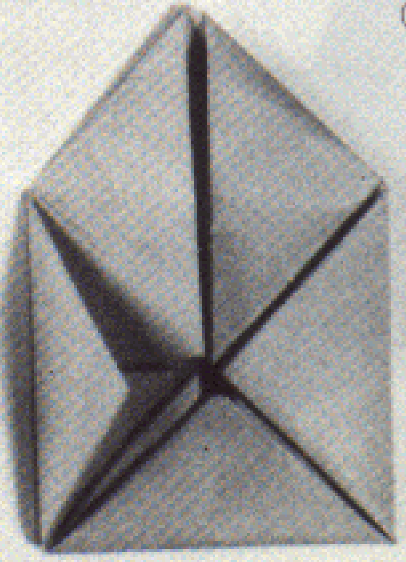
②



⑥ Reverse rear sections gently, making sure not to tear.

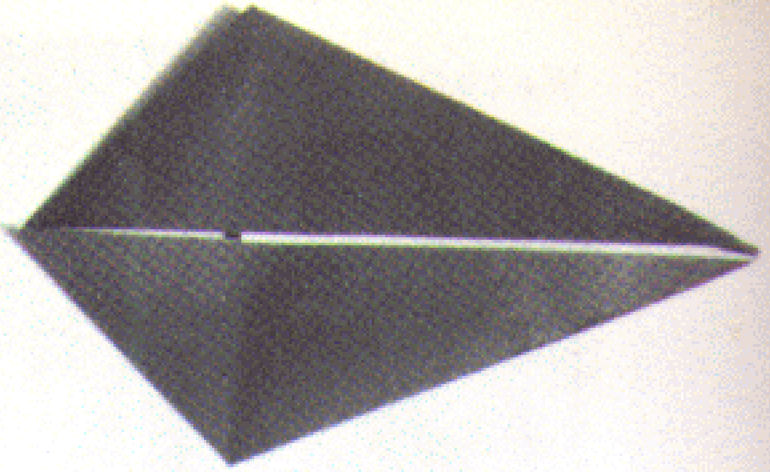


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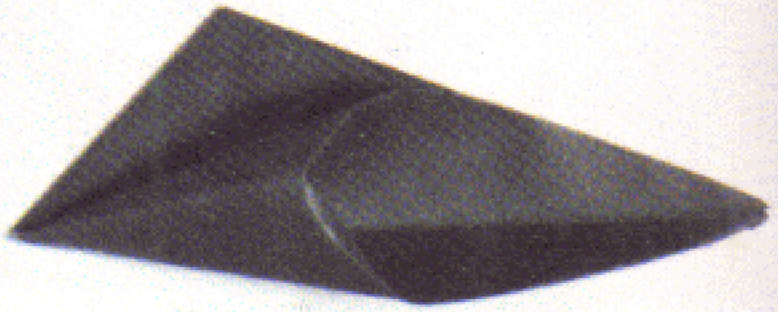


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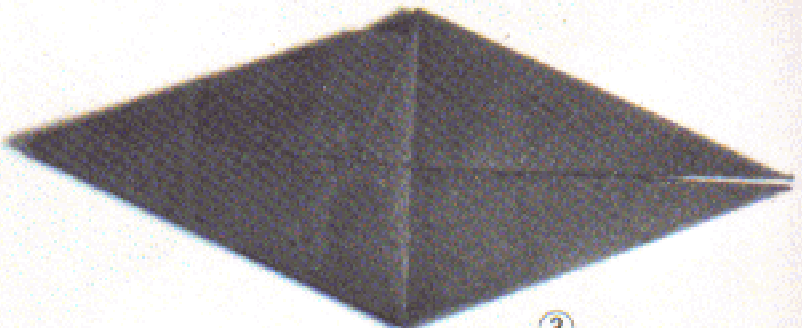
Crane-shaped receptacle



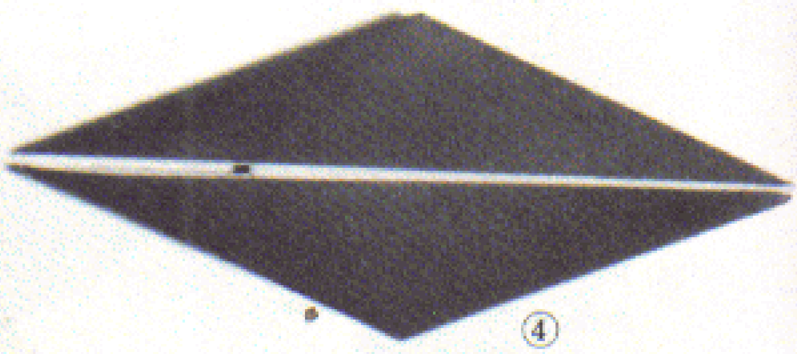
① Basic camel fold.



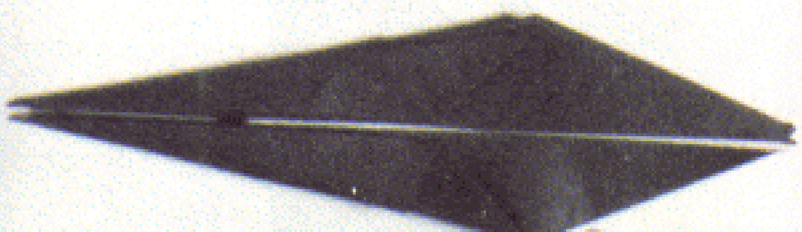
② Fold bottom half as shown.



③



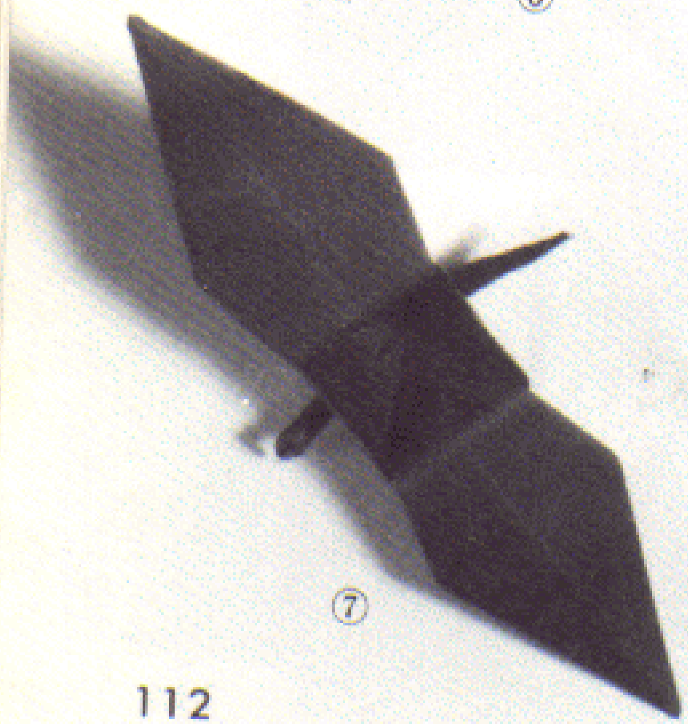
④



⑤

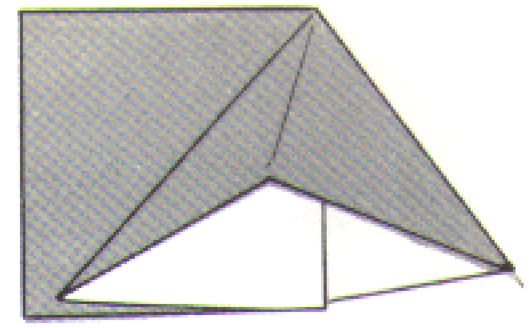


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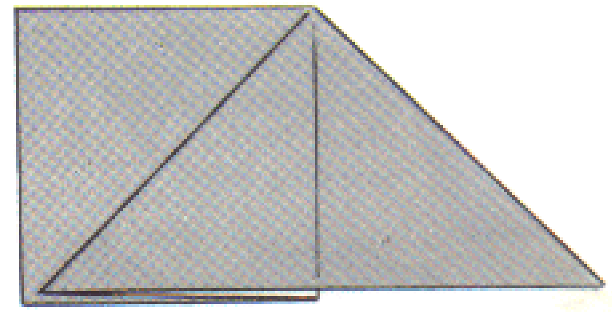


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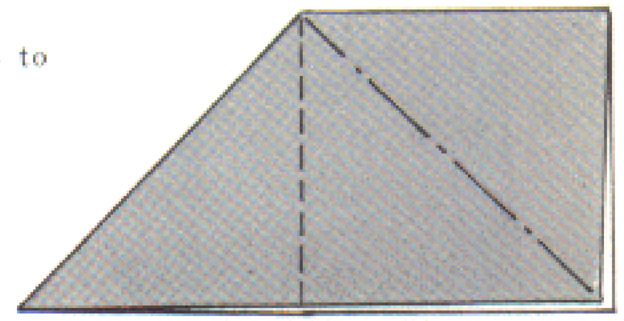
Rocket



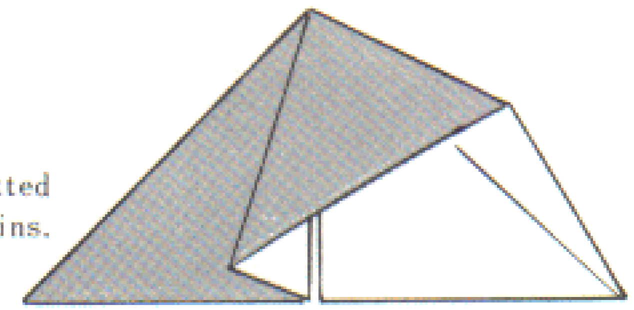
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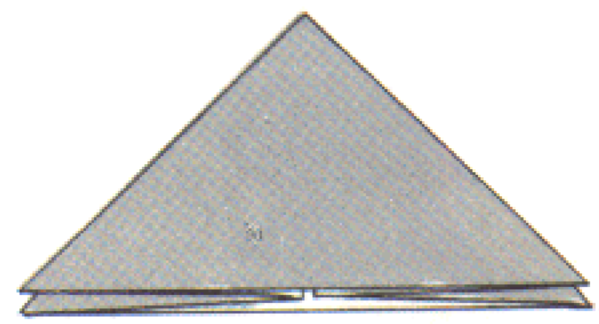
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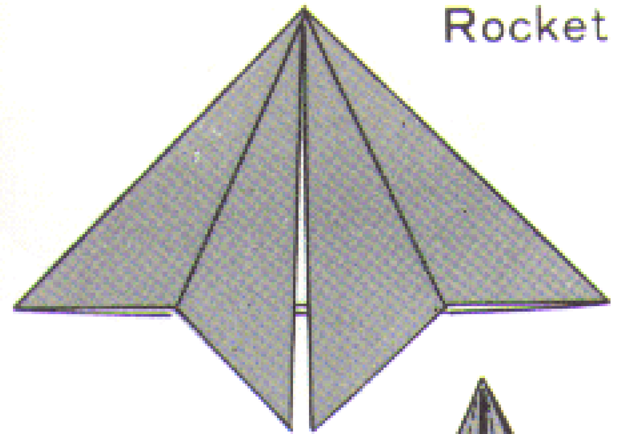
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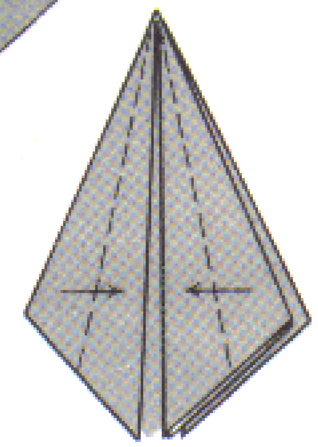
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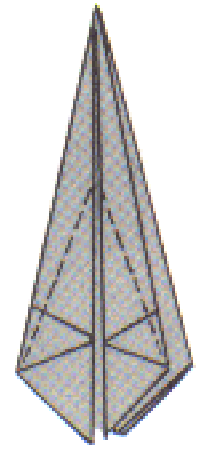
⑤ Basic hat fold.



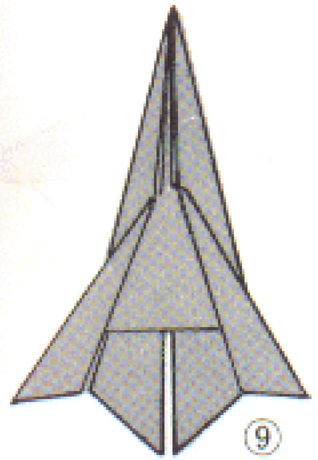
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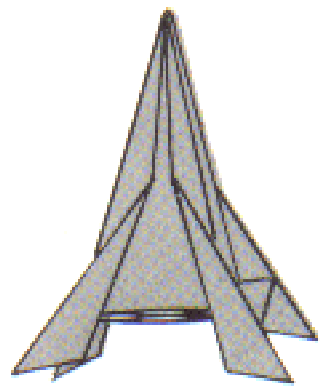
⑦ Fold along dotted lines to make narrow.



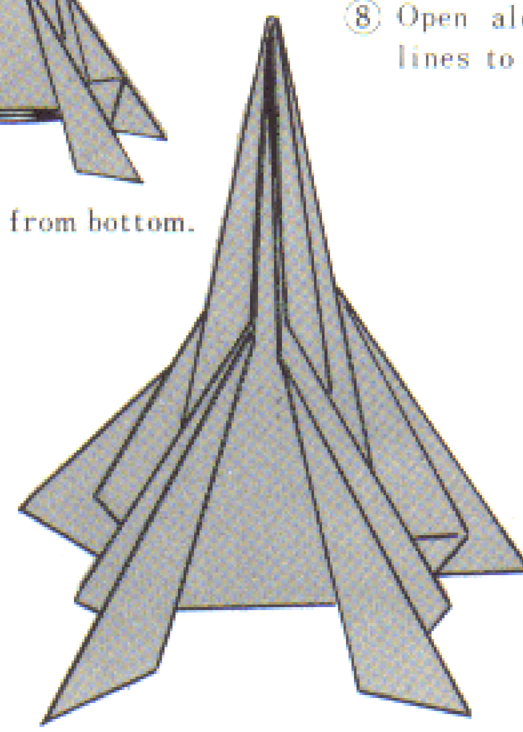
⑧ Open along dotted lines to make fins.



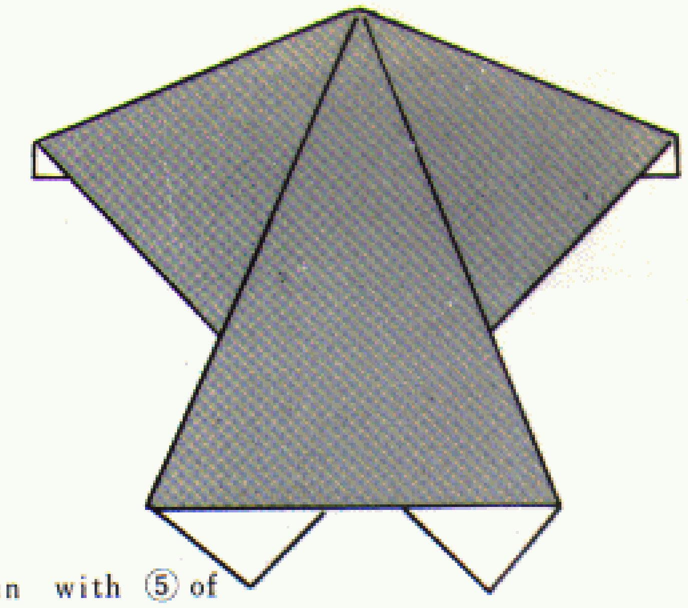
⑨



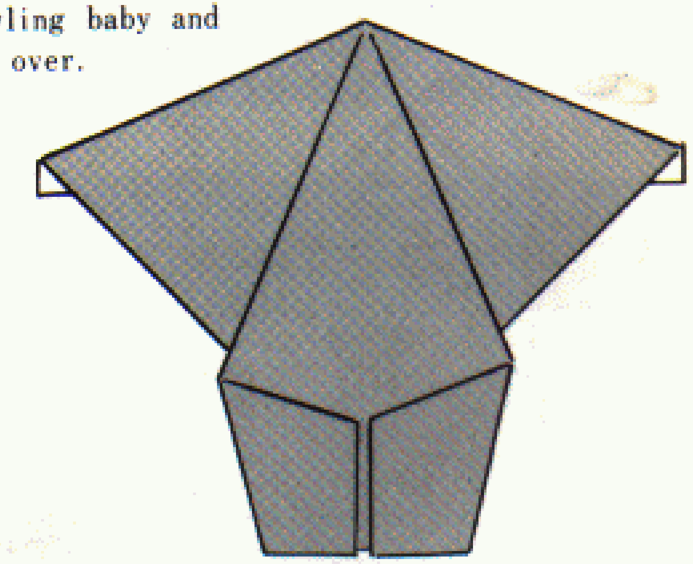
⑩ Open from bottom.



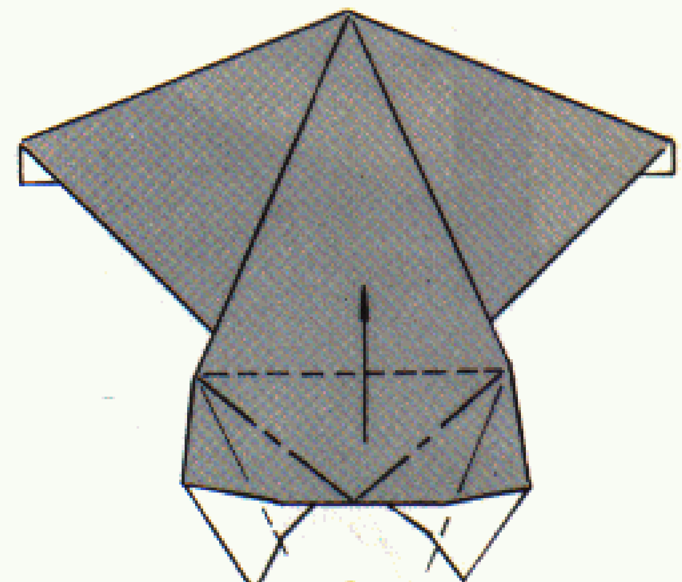
Baby



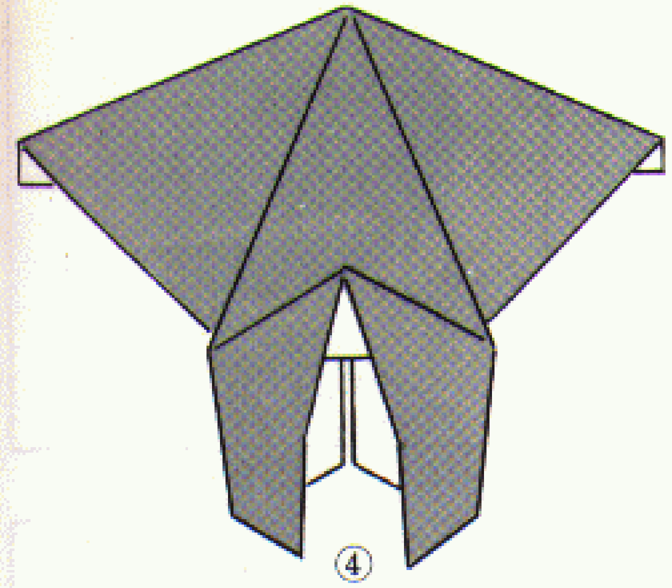
① Begin with ⑤ of crawling baby and turn over.



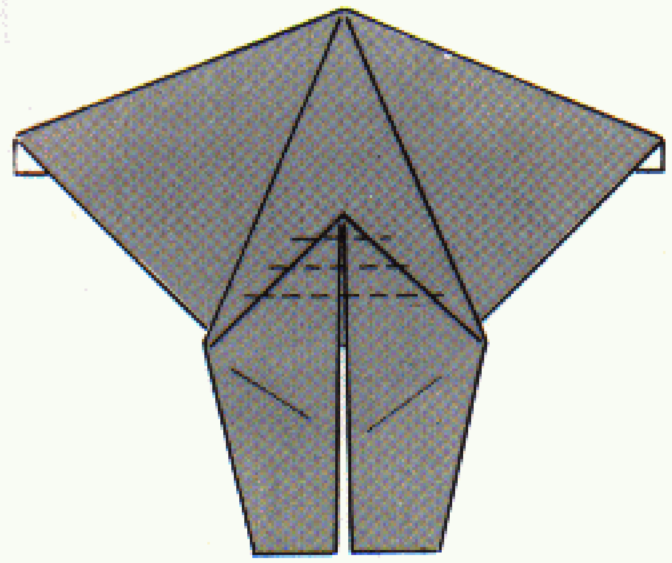
②



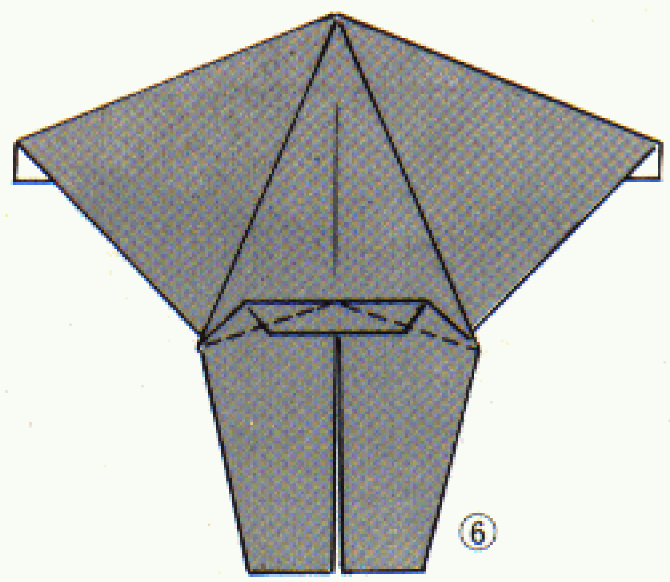
③ Fold to make creases as shown.



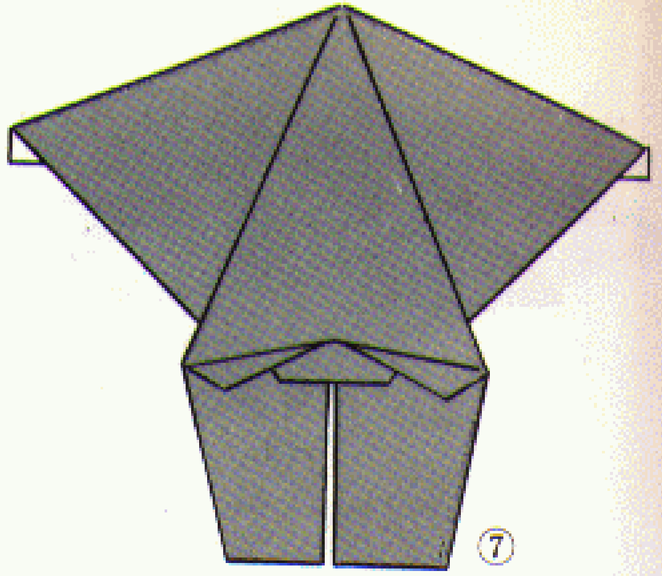
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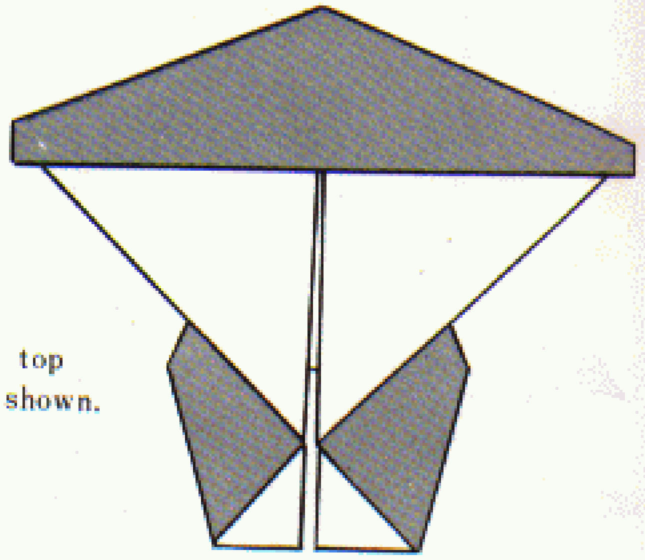
⑤



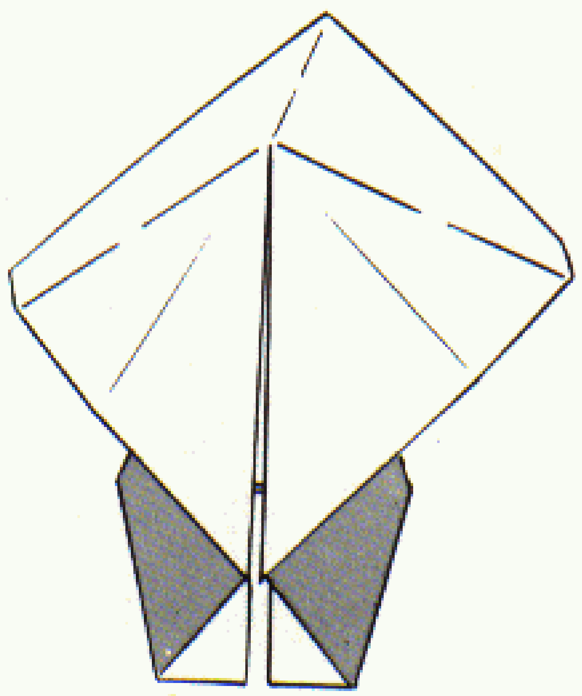
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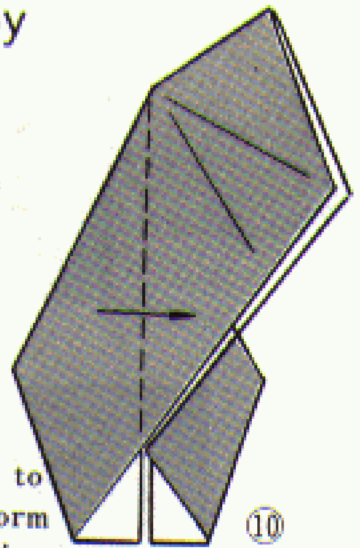
⑦



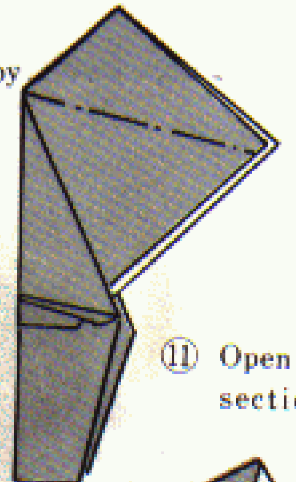
⑧ Turn over ⑦



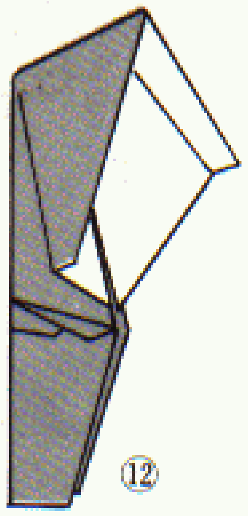
⑨ Open top.



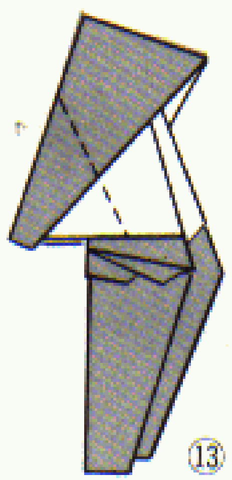
⑩



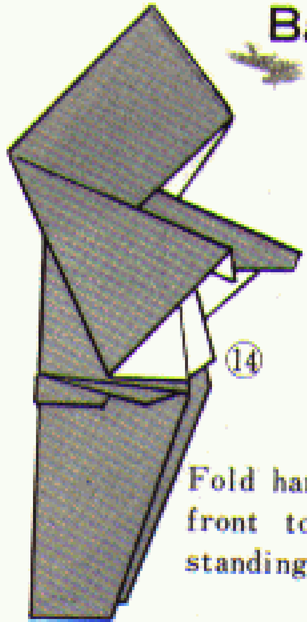
⑪ Open out top section as shown.



⑫

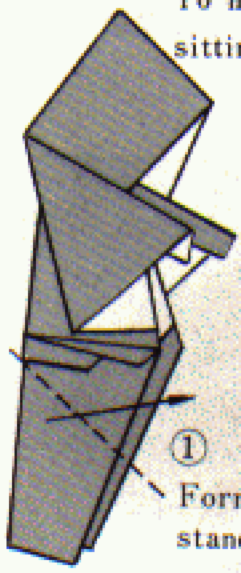


⑬

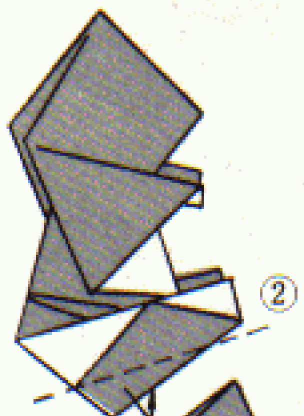


⑭ Fold hands to front to form standing baby.

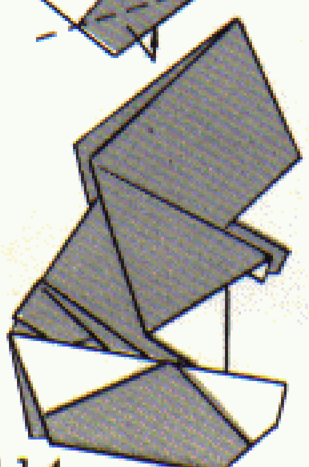
To make sitting baby



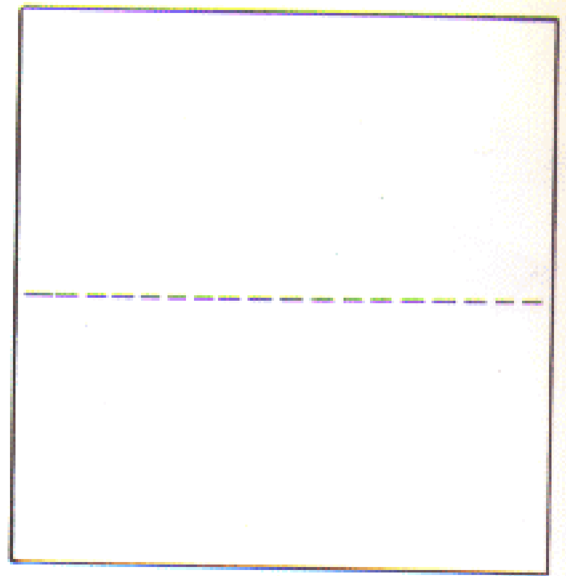
① Form ⑭ of standing bady.



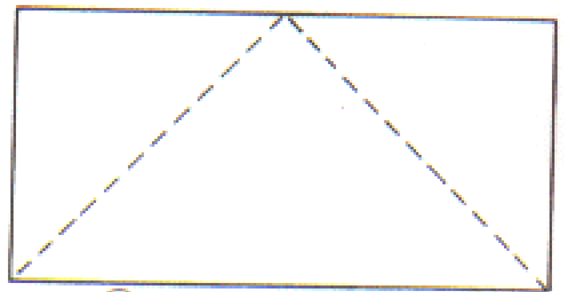
②



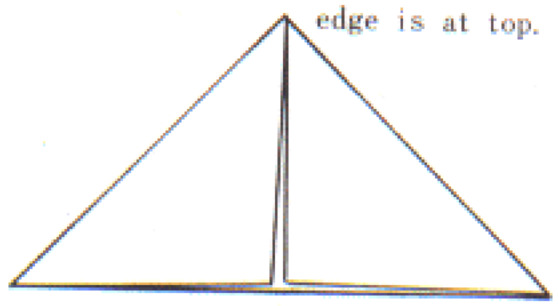
Goldfish mobile



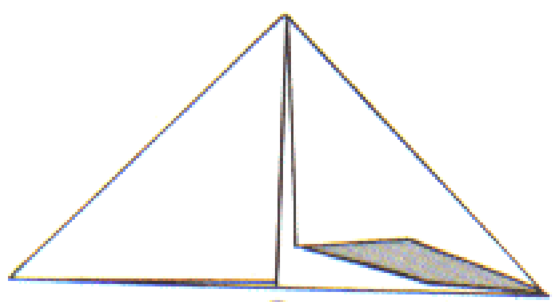
①



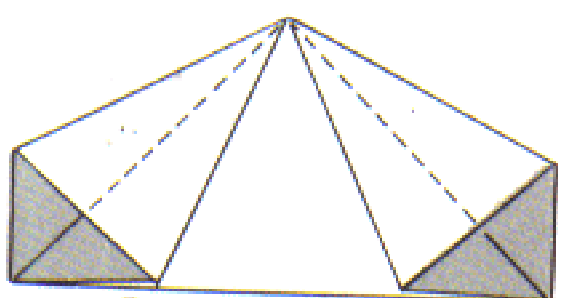
② Fold making sure folded edge is at top.



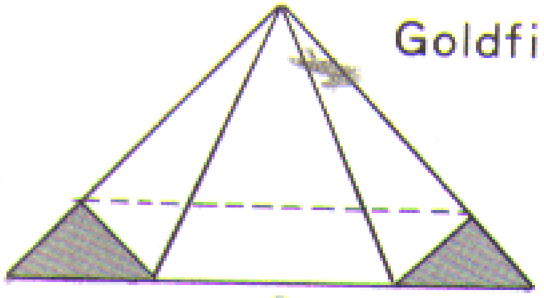
③



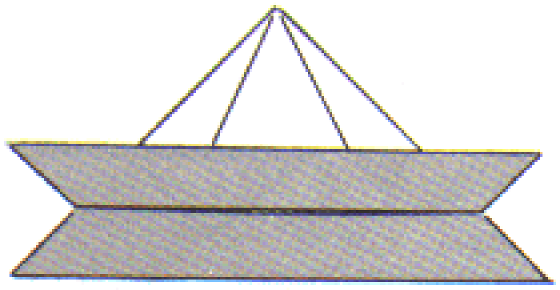
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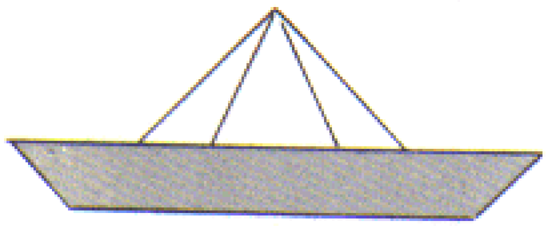
⑤ Fold back along dotted lines.



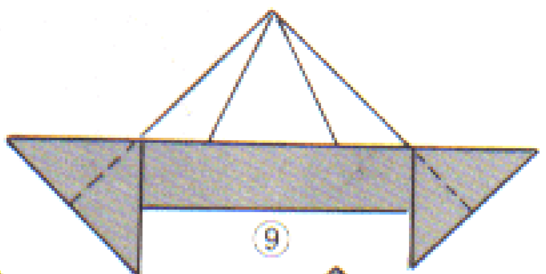
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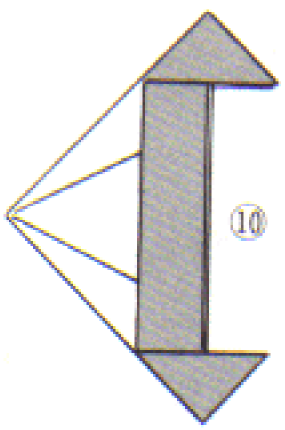
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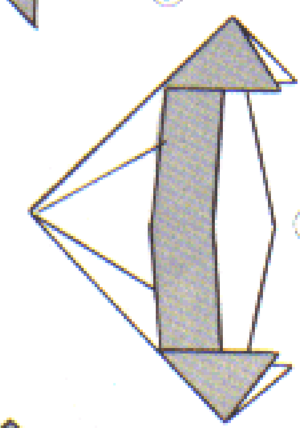
⑧



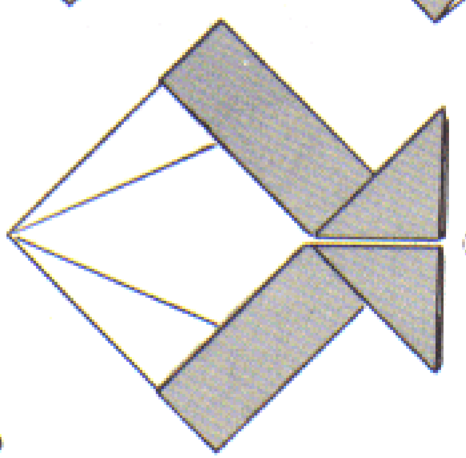
⑨



⑩

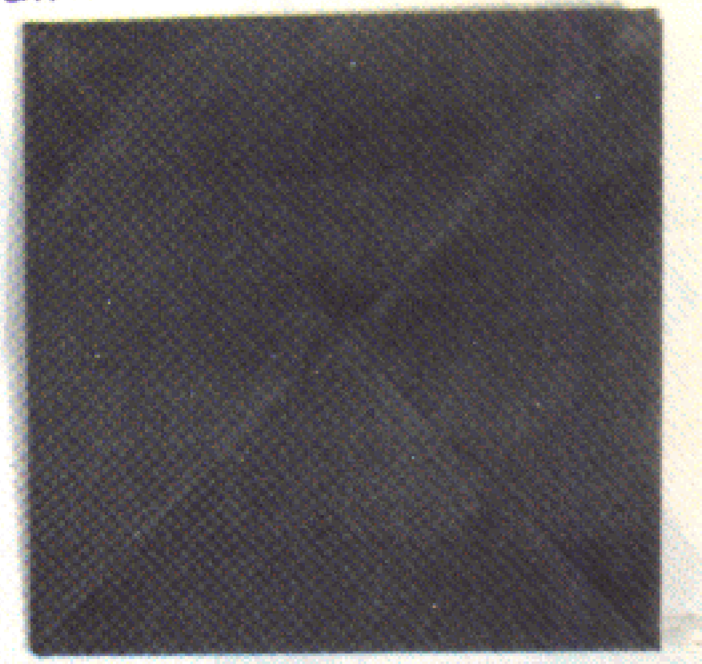


⑪

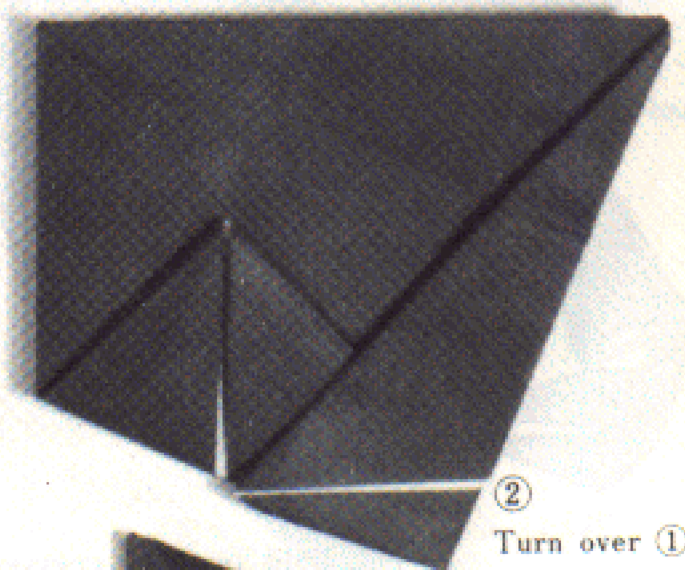


⑫

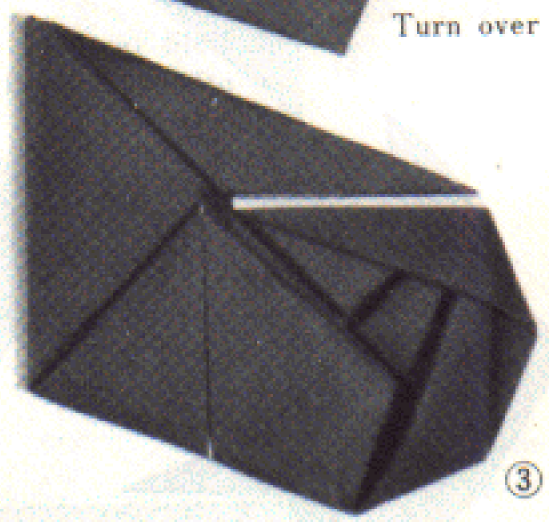
Ornamental ball



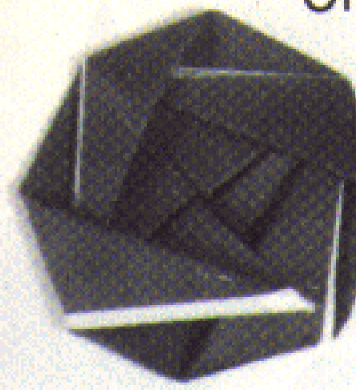
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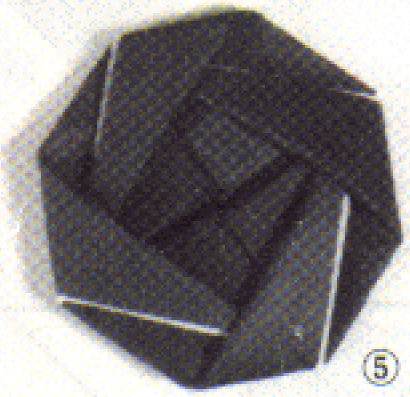
② Turn over ①



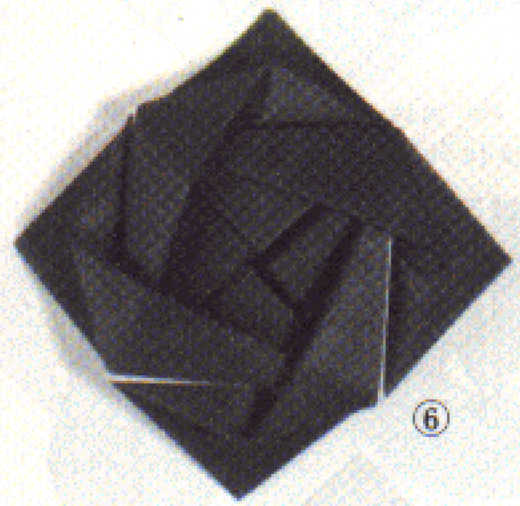
③



④



⑤

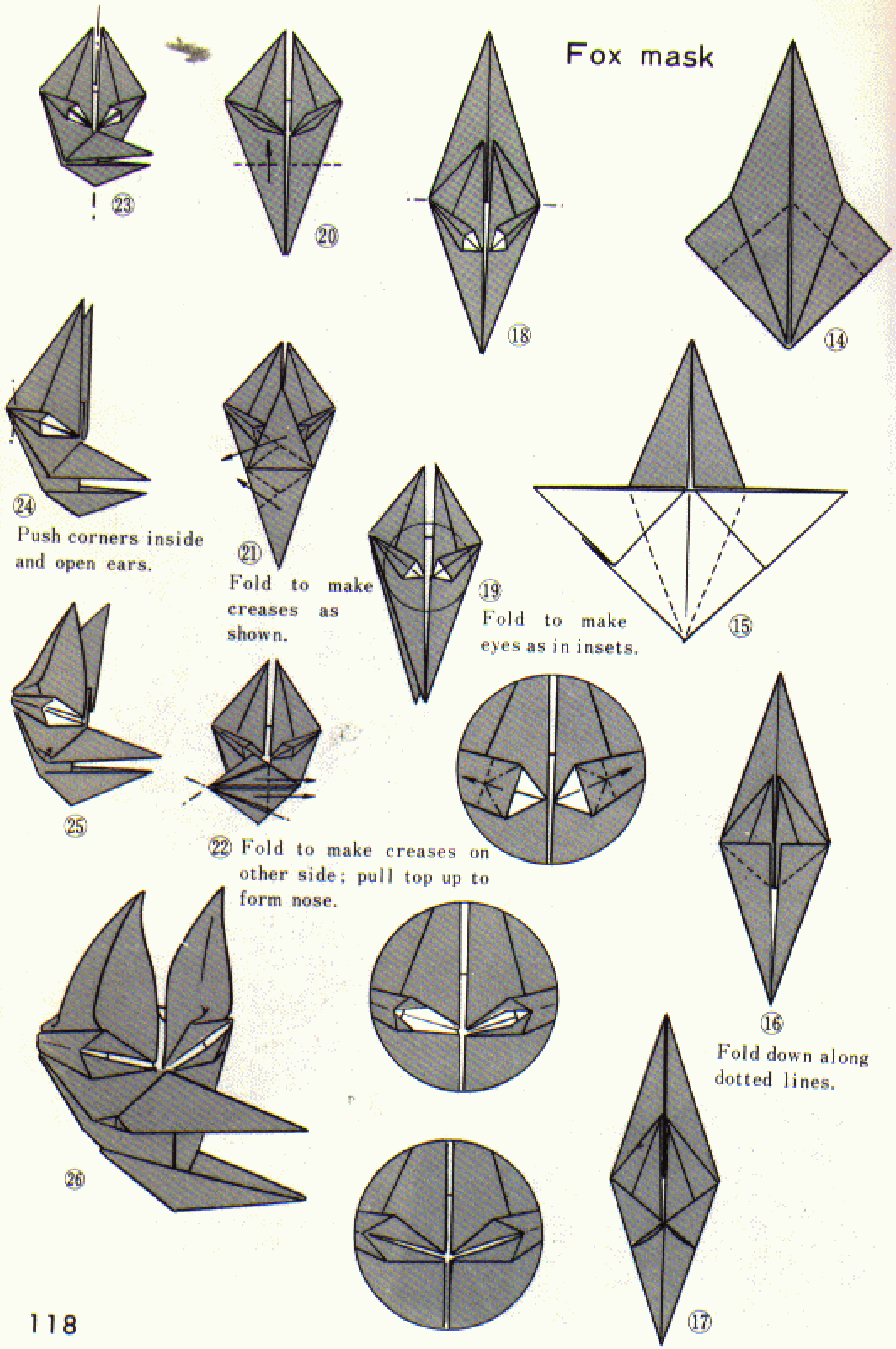


⑥



⑦ Make six in different colors and stick together to make ball.

Fox mask



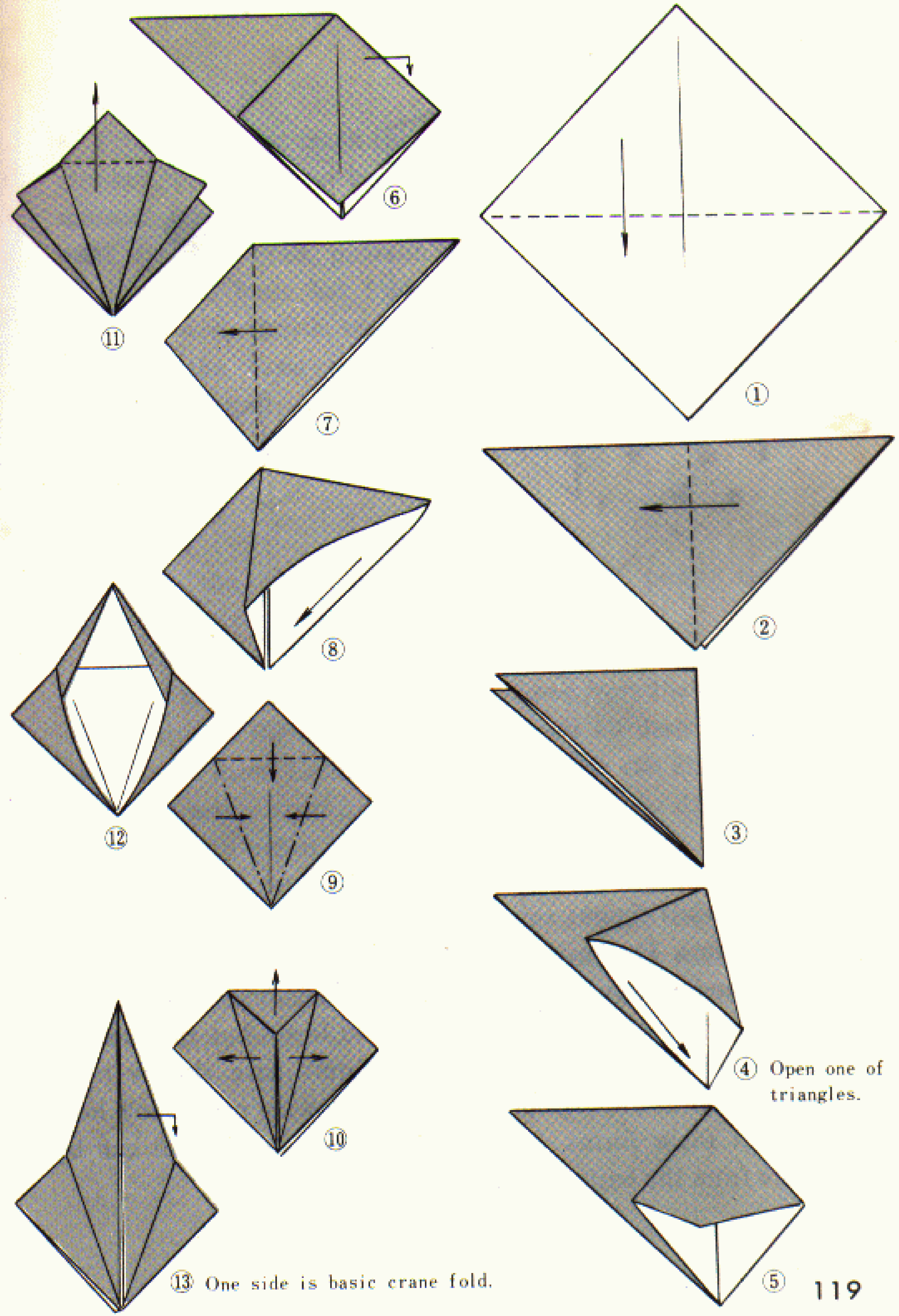
⑯ Fold down along dotted lines.

⑲ Fold to make eyes as in insets.

㉑ Fold to make creases as shown.

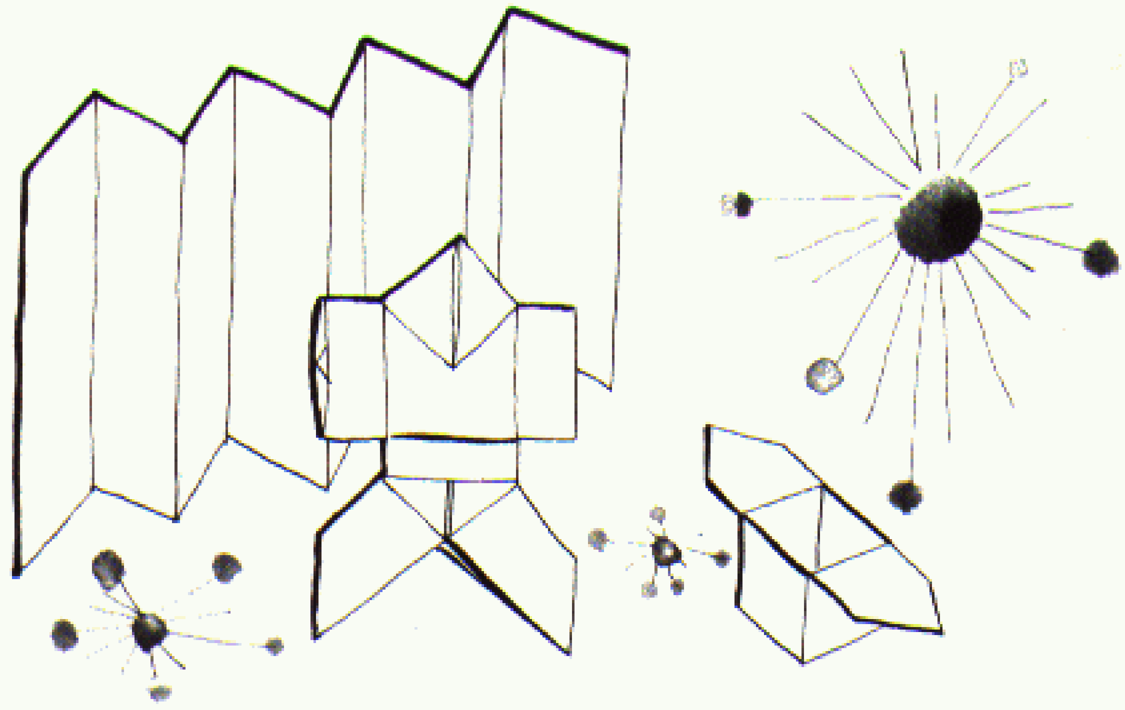
㉒ Fold to make creases on other side; pull top up to form nose.

㉔ Push corners inside and open ears.



④ Open one of triangles.

⑬ One side is basic crane fold.



Basic forms

Countless figures can be made after memorizing origami's basic forms. The basic forms themselves, however, have various names and are approached differently depending on the school. I call the forms "crane," "hat" and so forth, but they can be given different names. The basic forms have already been introduced in photographs, and the following pages show how to fold these forms. Some of the many shapes that can be made from the basic forms are listed below.

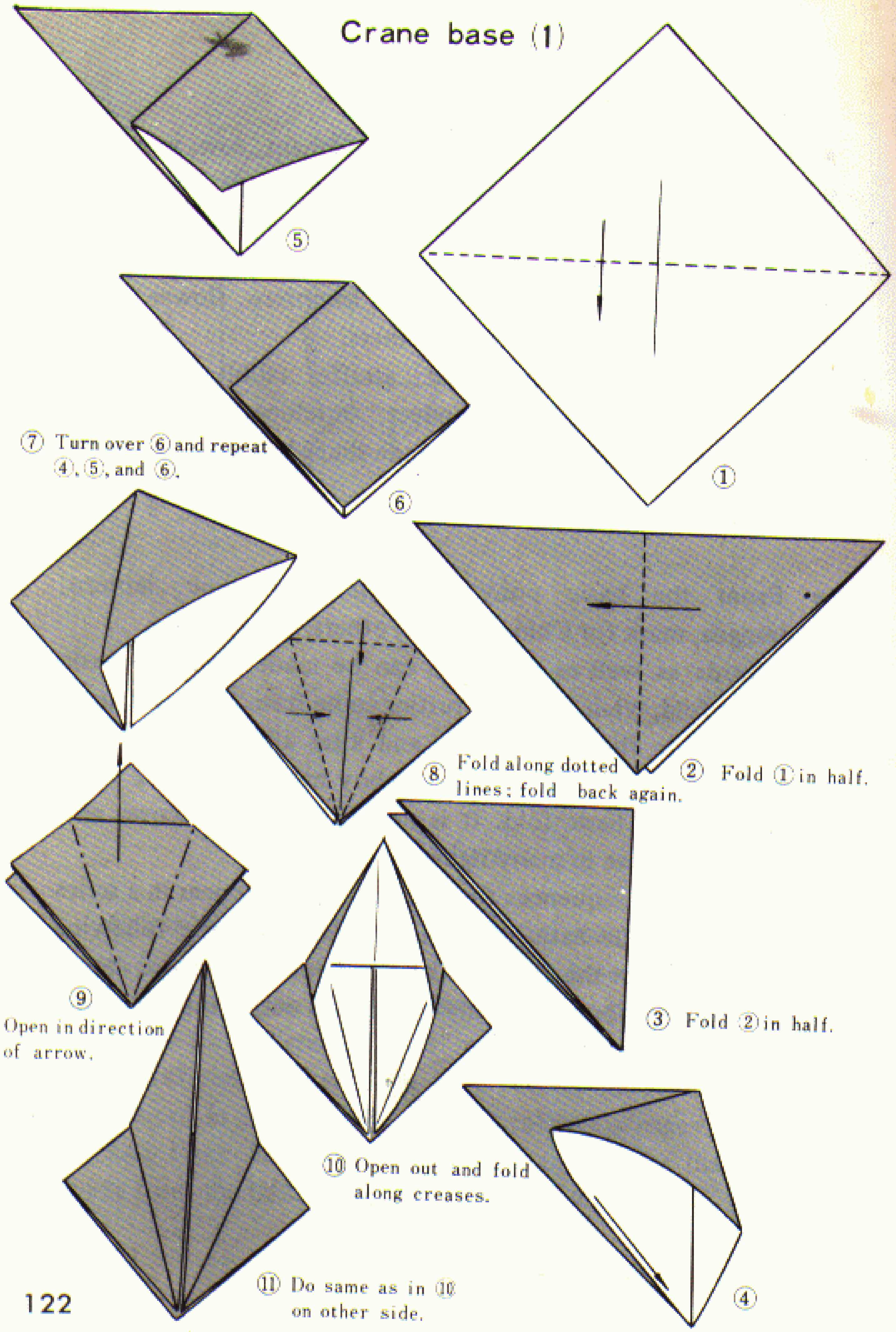
- From the basic crane fold: horse, elephant, cow, reindeer, monkey, bear, lion, cocker spaniel, standing crane, raven, Java sparrow, dragonfly, grasshopper, flamingo, female demon's mask, Buddha's mask, pharaoh's mask, praying man, others.
- From the basic hat fold: gorilla, sombrero, flower, frog, Tokyo Tower, starfish, sea turtle, others.
- From the basic camel fold: giraffe, rabbit, kangaroo, donkey, squirrel, sheep, reindeer, antelope, Dumbo the elephant, swan, parakeet, carp, crane-shaped receptacle, death mask, others.

- From the basic pony fold: jumping pony, lantern, hydrangea, mask for Chinese opera, others.

Lizards as well as dinosaurs can be made from the basic dinosaur fold, while rays and turtles come from the basic turtle fold. Birds in flight, jet planes and kites all derive from the same basic form. Goldfish and cowboy hats can also be made from the same basic fold. It is not difficult to discover new basic folds for use in many figures.

The folding sequences for the basic forms appear in a series of diagrams. The basic forms are explained in the following pages and not in the first part of this book. The reader should study the basic forms carefully in order to derive the maximum pleasure from origami.

Crane base (1)



①

② Fold ① in half.

③ Fold ② in half.

④

⑤

⑥

⑦ Turn over ⑥ and repeat ④, ⑤, and ⑥.

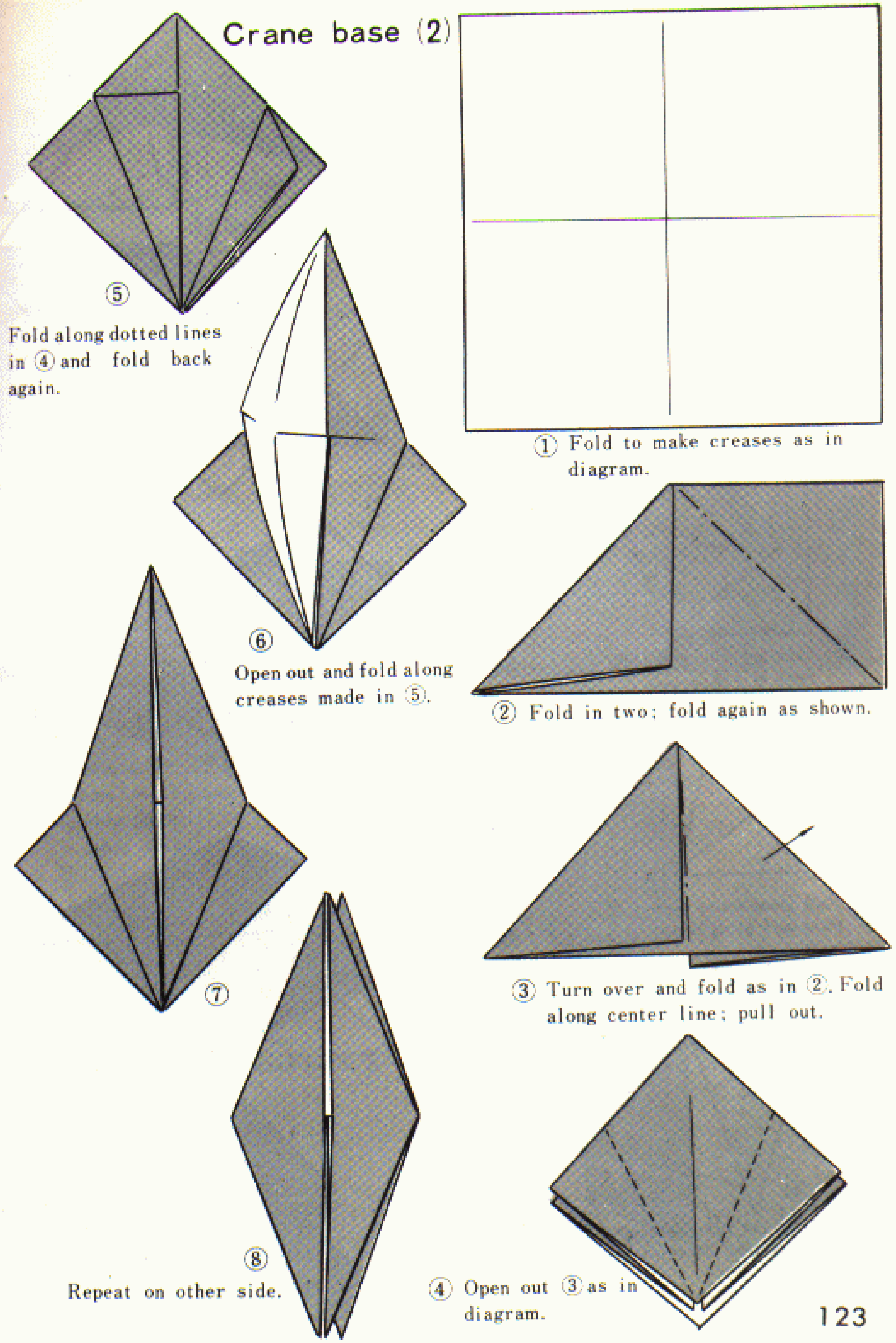
⑧ Fold along dotted lines; fold back again.

⑨ Open in direction of arrow.

⑩ Open out and fold along creases.

⑪ Do same as in ⑩ on other side.

Crane base (2)



① Fold to make creases as in diagram.

② Fold in two; fold again as shown.

③ Turn over and fold as in ②. Fold along center line; pull out.

④ Open out ③ as in diagram.

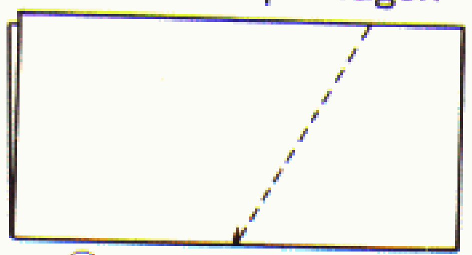
⑤ Fold along dotted lines in ④ and fold back again.

⑥ Open out and fold along creases made in ⑤.

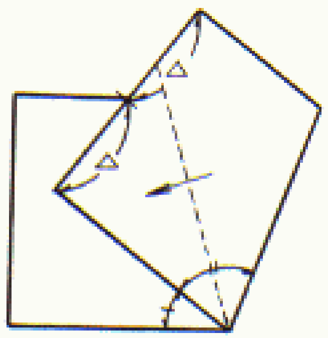
⑦

⑧ Repeat on other side.

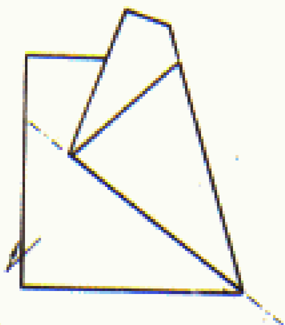
Method of making pentagon



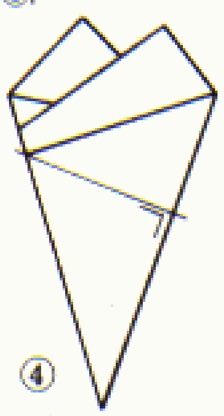
① Fold along dotted lines.



② Fold and make angles in ratio of 1:2.



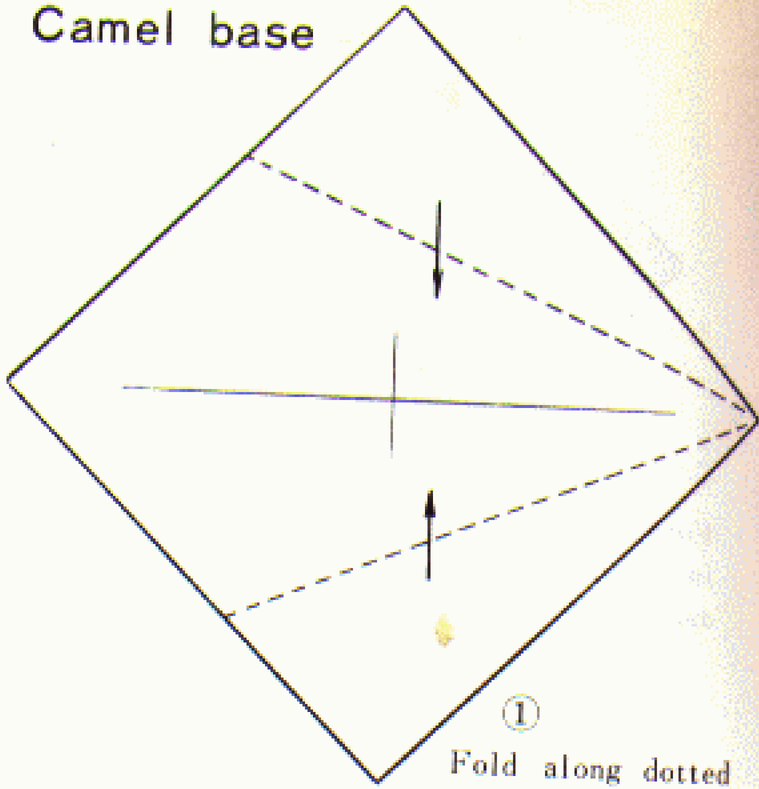
③ Fold along dotted line in ②. Fold back along dotted line in ③.



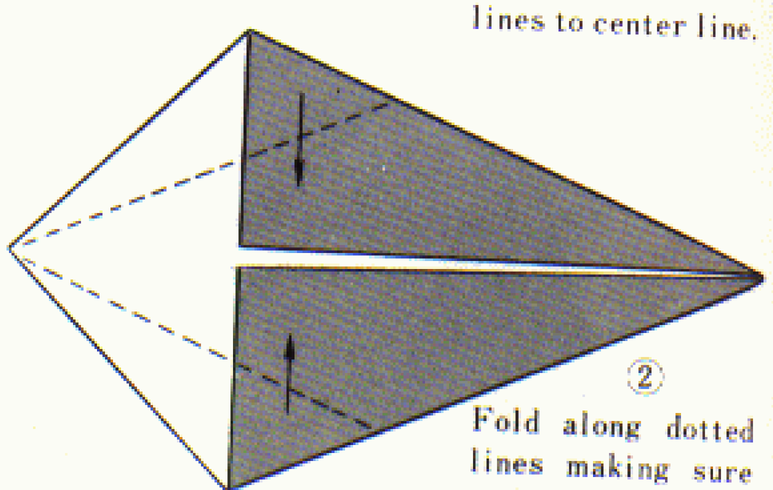
④

Turn over ③. Cut at right-angles to edge along line. Open out to form pentagon.

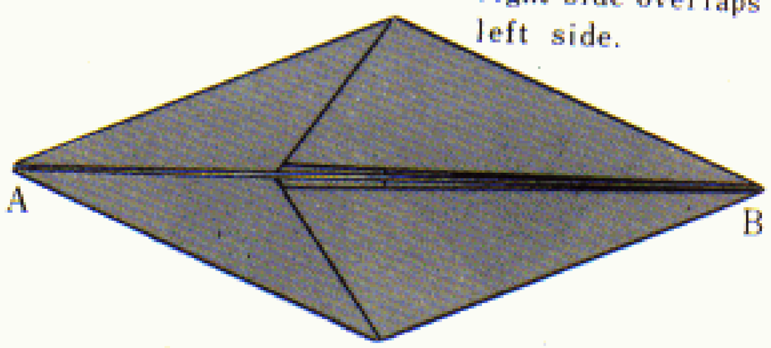
Camel base



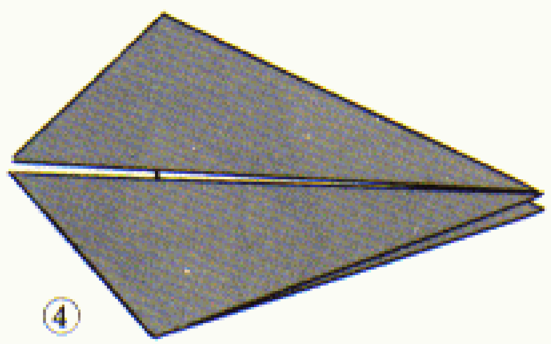
① Fold along dotted lines to center line.



② Fold along dotted lines making sure right side overlaps left side.

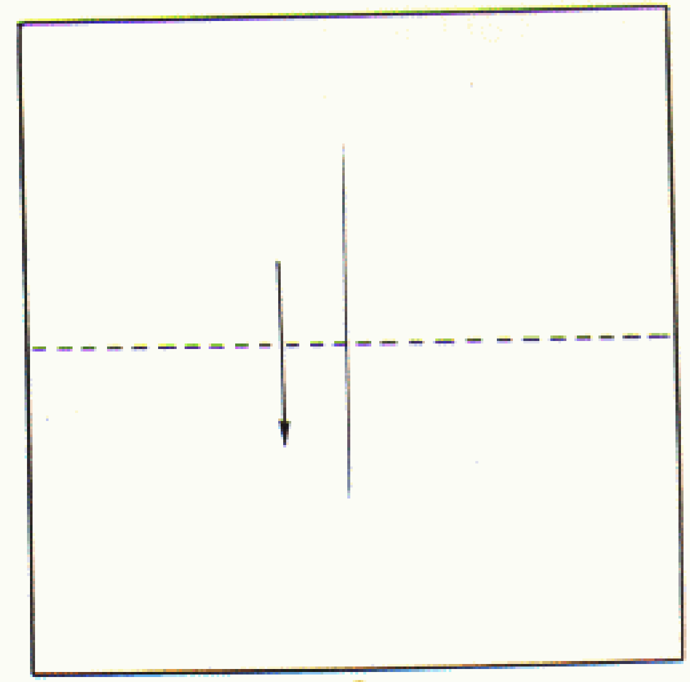


③ Fold back left side to form ④.

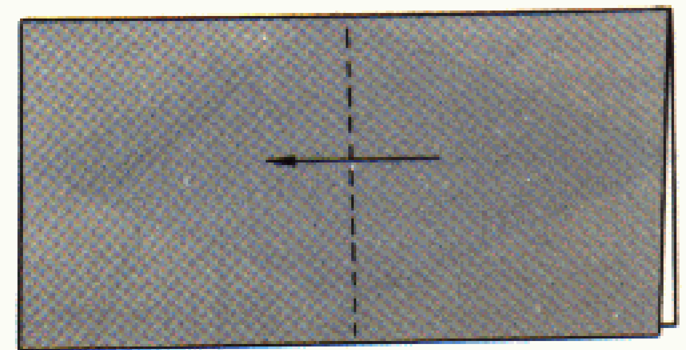


④

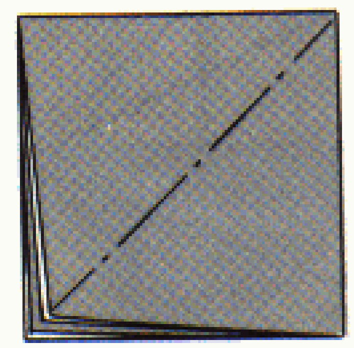
Hat base



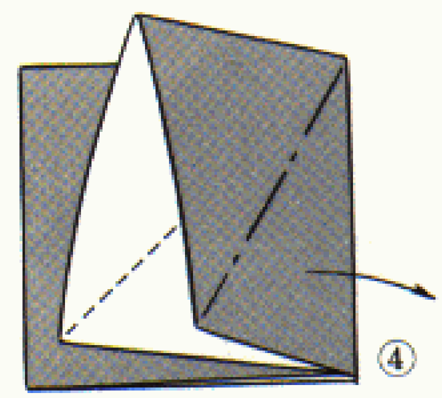
①



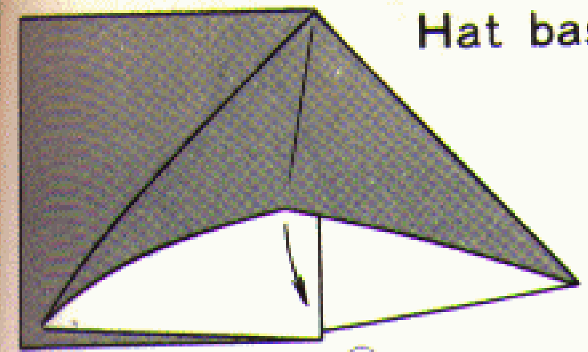
②



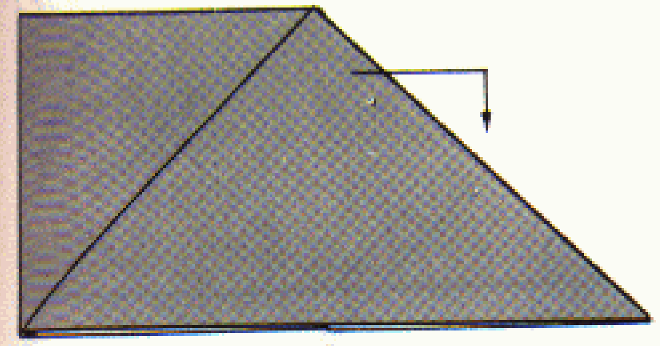
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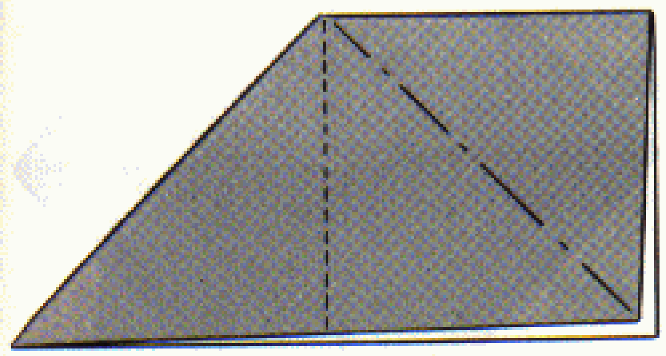
④



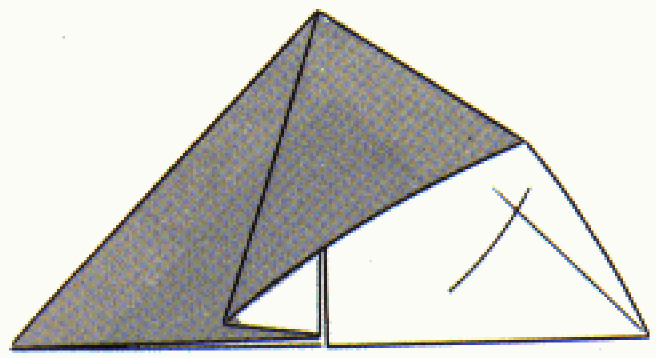
⑤ Open out as shown.



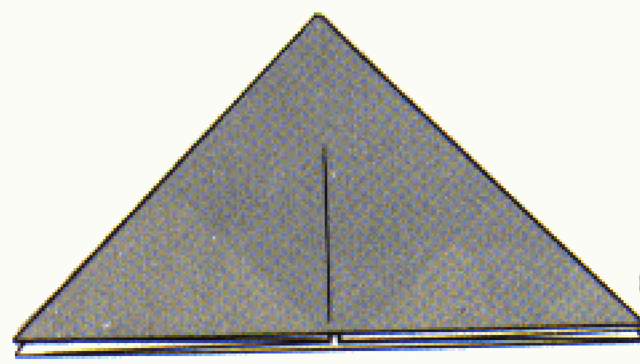
⑥



⑦ Turn over ⑥ and fold as before.

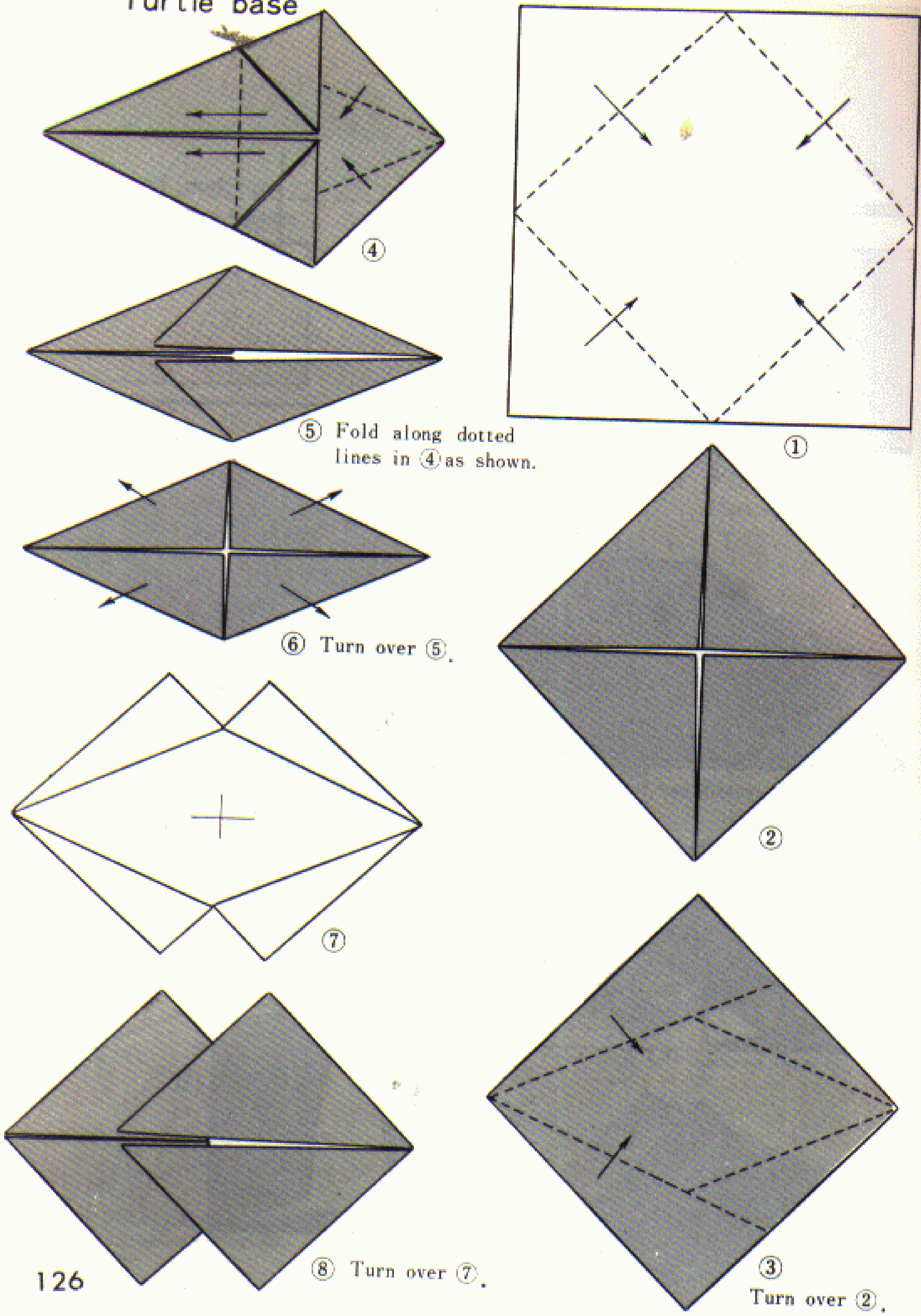


⑧



⑨

Turtle base



①

②

③ Turn over ②.

④

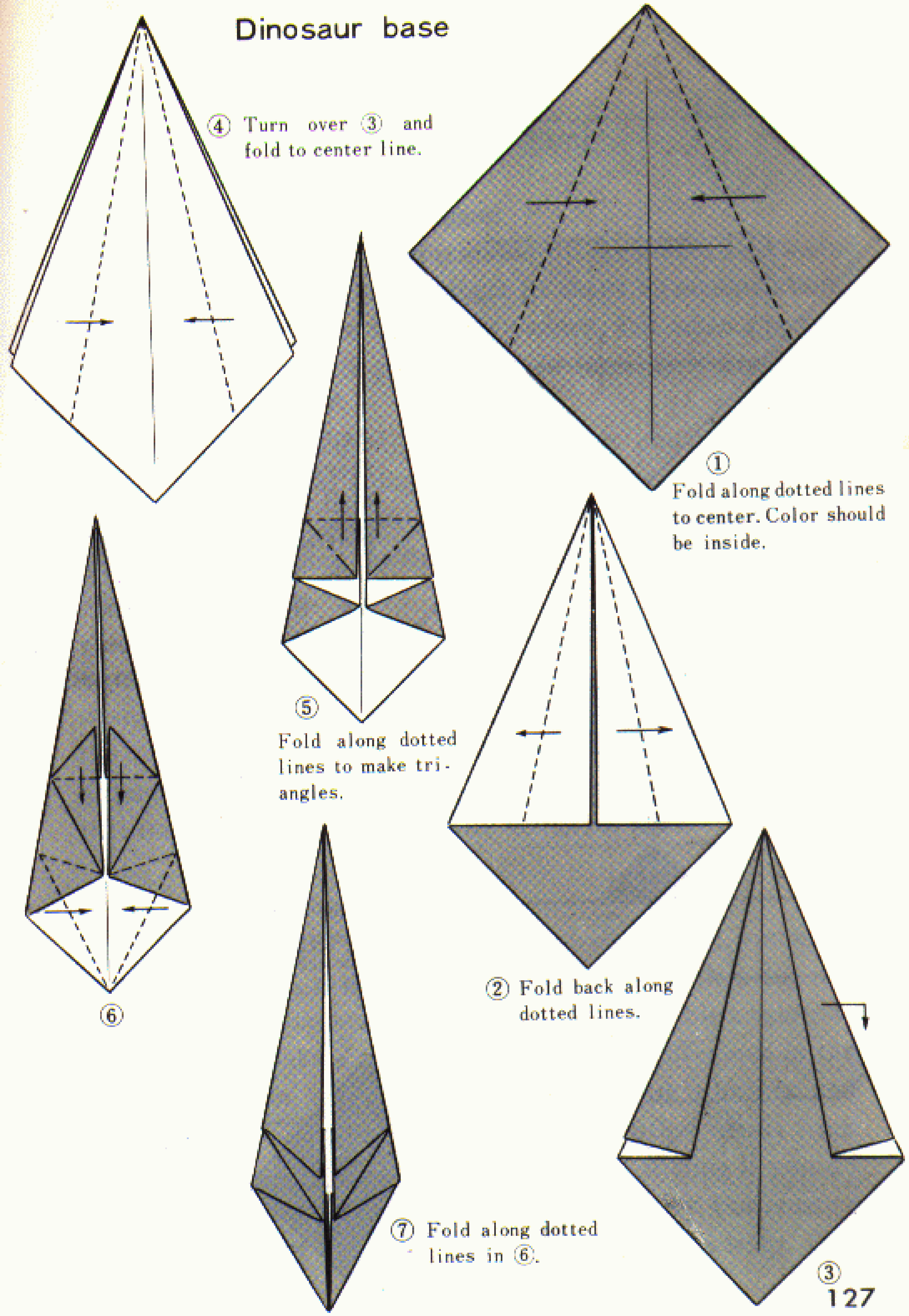
⑤ Fold along dotted lines in ④ as shown.

⑥ Turn over ⑤.

⑦

⑧ Turn over ⑦.

Dinosaur base



① Fold along dotted lines to center. Color should be inside.

② Fold back along dotted lines.

③

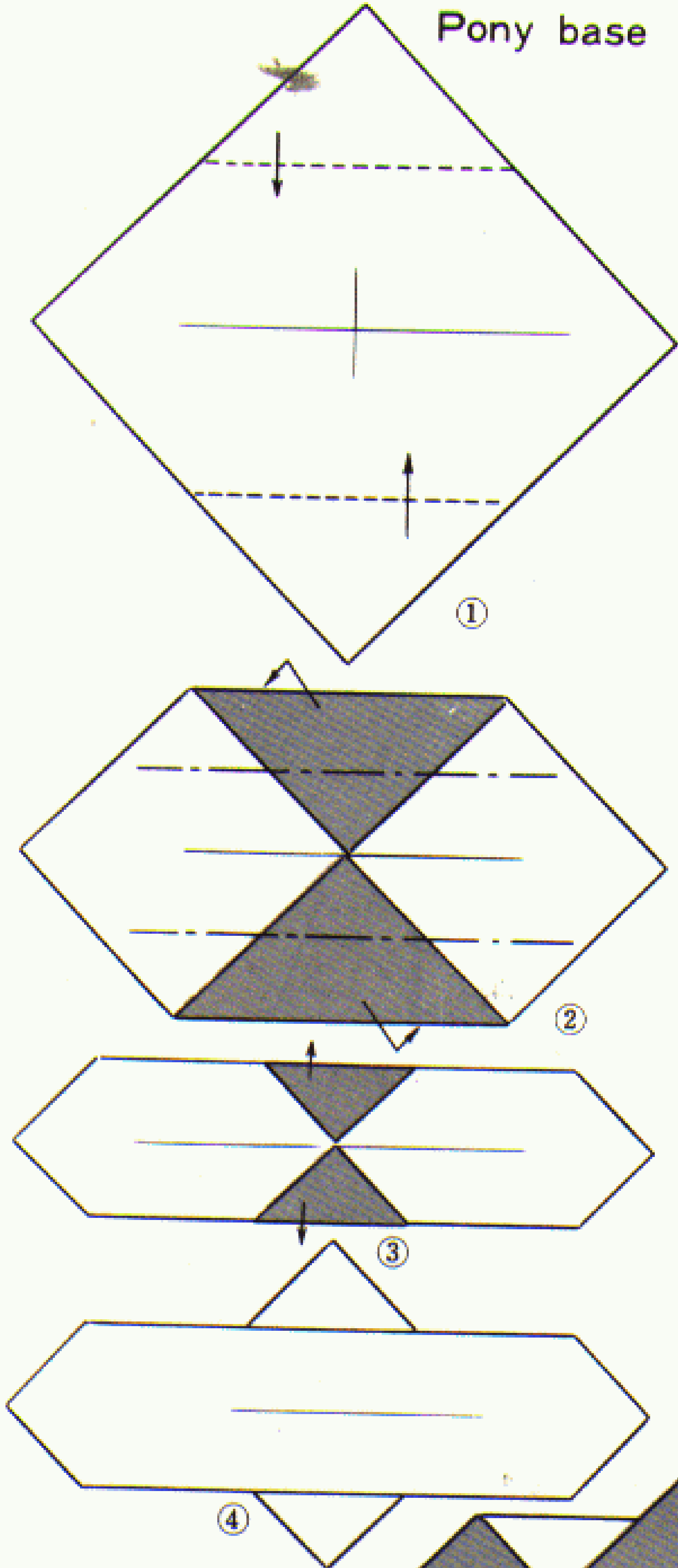
④ Turn over ③ and fold to center line.

⑤ Fold along dotted lines to make triangles.

⑥

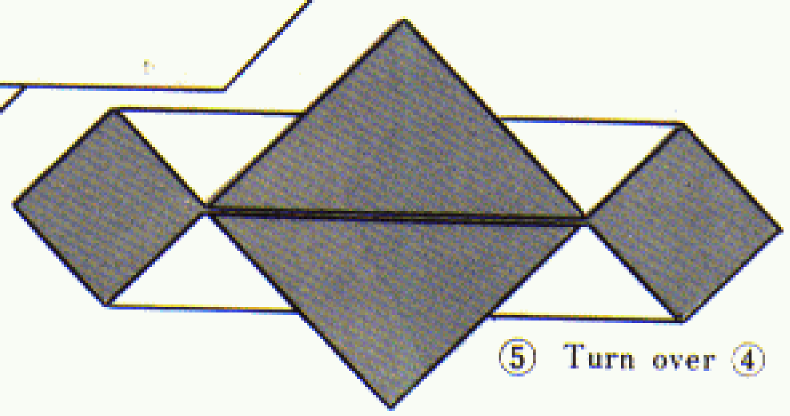
⑦ Fold along dotted lines in ⑥.

Pony base



According to a noted American origami artist, there are five basic forms: bird, water bomb (Japanese playball), frog, diamond and fish. Opinions vary regarding the basic forms, and variations depend only on the individual's creative ability.

Paper folded with white side uppermost will have colored side uppermost when finished, and vice versa.



⑤ Turn over ④

Creative Origami

Traditional and creative origami

Traditional origami is represented by the crane, yakko-san (servant) and a boat which changes its shape by manipulation. Children learn all these from their parents. But when a person puts new ideas to work and devises new forms he is working in creative origami.

In traditional origami the same result could always be obtained if there was a diagram to follow. In creative origami, however, different shapes are possible even when the same thing is made because the finished work bears the stamp of the folder's personality.

This is especially so in a mask. The folder's character and emotions appear to be delicately expressed in the work. It is strange that the size of the eyes and mouth and the length of the nose are never the same, and that every mask has a different expression. One characteristic of creative origami is that the individual's ability clearly marks his work.

Increase your observation

In order to make birds and animals with origami, you must know their shape, movements and habits, otherwise a dog will not look like a dog and a sparrow will not resemble a sparrow.

When you make a mask there is always a difference in the facial expression whether you know the mask's history and legend or not. When you make Noh and other masks from drama, you may lose half the enjoyment of folding if you do not know the drama and the particular character. For creative origami, too, you need an extensive general knowledge. One

must keenly observe and study what he wants to make. The main points of creative origami are beauty and faithfulness to actual form.

Tools are not necessary

We use the words "carve" for sculpture and "paint" for painting but say "fold" for origami. We need instruments for the former two activities but none for the latter. Fingers are all one needs for origami, but they must be trained.

A sheet of paper contains unlimited "invisible" lines to fold from which we must choose the correct lines for making a desired shape. Whether the paper is folded correctly or not depends solely on the folder's skill.

Formative beauty in origami

There are certain points essential for bringing out the beauty in origami.

When we treat origami as an art, we need a delicate sensitivity even in the simplest folding action. Identical figures folded by different persons reflect the different personalities of the folders. Thus, it is important for the folder to strive for this sensitivity and to develop a sense for his material's qualities and color. One must choose the size, thickness, color and quality of paper that best fits what he intends to make.

It is not incorrect to use complicated methods when creating origami figures but it is better to use simple folding methods to obtain more realistic forms. I hope that everyone who attempts to create origami figures will observe certain principles, and study ways to express beauty in their work.

Principle of creative origami

A group I established for studying creative origami forbids the use of scissors on principle. Abiding by this rule creative origami's enjoyment becames twofold. If you use scissors too freely, origami approaches too closely to *kirigami zaiku*, the art of cutting paper to make various shapes. Productions lack creativeness because of the short-cuts scissors introduce. This does not mean scissors should be ruled out completely. Primarily, however, they should be used solely to make incisions for gaining better effects. No part of the paper should be cut off. In classical origami scissors were used to make the thousand cranes, but only incisions were made.

Compound forms

Certain origami figures require more than one sheet of paper. Before you introduce scissors to obtain the real shape of what you are making, try using two or more sheets of paper to make different parts and then join them. When two or more parts are joined to make a figure it is called a compound form.

The grasshopper, with its raised forelegs, triangular face and wings, is once such form. It is impossible to make a grasshopper using one sheet of square paper, although it can be made from one sheet of triangular paper. In this book I demonstrated folding a grasshopper with two sheets of paper: one for the face, forelegs and wings; and the other for the remaining legs and the rear half of the body.

Some animals are made by folding the front and rear halves separately. A combination of a mask and a person requires three sheets of paper: one for the mask, another for the upper half of the body and the third for the lower half of the body.

With two sheets of paper you can make Buddhist images, Pan, the Japanese gods of wind and thunder or beautiful nudes.

Invitation to creative origami

I recommend that beginners memorize all the basic forms and study carefully how to develop the figure desired. One should observe in real life what one wants to make to grasp the correct shape and character. It is a good idea to study using a picture book or an art book.

Two or three questions would quickly test your power of observation. Do you know, for example, that a whale's tail extends horizontally not vertically? Do you know a chimpanzee holds its arms up while an orang-utan lets them dangle? It is important to use your eyes all the time, and to sketch the shape of things in your mind. After mastering realism you can then make your work more symbolic and abstract. The classical origami crane has a formative beauty that is not merely a copy of a real crane.

Intensive research into the crane's formative beauty determined that the classical fold was most fitting. The crane is origami's greatest masterpiece and is readily understood by the present generation. Foreigners immediately associate the classical crane with origami.

When you do research into origami's symbolization and abstraction, an acute creative sense and keen observation are helpful. In order to develop these senses, one should study art, sculptures and flower arrangements.

There are special difficulties in making masks. A mask should express joy or anger but will not if paper is only folded twenty or thirty times. When the sculptor makes a Noh mask

he applies his whole heart and soul to his work. The origami artist must likewise apply himself to capture the delicate expression in an origami mask.

It is easy to enter the world of creative origami, but creativity is profound. I hope you enjoy this world and will contribute your own ideas to make it richer.



The educational value of creative origami

Children who merely copy how to fold origami do not reap any great educational benefit. It appears simple to make an origami figure using a sheet of paper and nothing else, but, on the contrary, it needs a highly creative sense.

Whereas painting needs a canvas and sculpture needs space, origami needs only a sheet of paper. In the sheet of paper, however, exist endless folding possibilities. To make origami forms one must have the insight to see the paper's "invisible" lines in order to fold and produce something. Moreover, while other arts depend on brushes, paint, chisels and other tools or media, the fingers make all kinds of origami shapes and forms. Actually, the person who disagrees with the role origami can play in formative education probably lacks a true understanding of origami.

Problems exist, too, in teaching origami. Children taught established ways of folding origami, for example, adopt a passive attitude. Moreover, children who learn fast tend to feel superior when they quickly memorize a sequence while children who experience difficulty in folding paper correctly or following directions become depressed. Origami taught that way stifles creativity instead of nurturing it.

Children should learn how to fold paper correctly but should not be taught that only by folding in a certain way can such and such an animal or object be made. If the teaching method is correct, origami becomes a most convenient educational material.

Origami seems to be better understood today, and is used more often in kindergartens and nurseries. Teachers who use origami in kindergartends find the children so enthusiastic that they forget the time.

Children surprise themselves by making various shapes without cutting the paper. Their favorites are squirrels, penguins and elephants. Children see something magical in origami.

It is possible to make forms quickly, using many colors and without taking up much space. Children realize their dreams by producing many figures they can play with afterwards. Children tend to enjoy producing various figures when they realize they are creating "playmates."



